



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli Envoy on Agreement, Rabin Visit to Cairo

NC1104140694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT
11 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—Israeli Ambassador David Sultan announced today that the Palestinian and Israeli delegations are now discussing the remaining unresolved points pertaining to the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and the deployment of Palestinian police in Gaza and Jericho.

He told reporters that the talks will deal with several security, civil, and legal issues pertaining to the Declaration of Principles.

Sultan said that the Israeli delegation will return to Israel tomorrow, Tuesday, and if by that time no agreement is reached, then the talks will be resumed next week.

He added that if the two delegations reach an agreement, it will be signed under the patronage of President Husni Mubarak. He explained that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the Israeli prime minister will sign the agreement.

An official source reported meanwhile that Rabin's visit to Cairo is due to take place after President Husni Mubarak returns from his tour of Japan and China but before the end of April at any rate.

Sha'th on Detainees, Withdrawal, Talks' Status

NC1104144094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1212 GMT
11 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, President 'Arafat's political adviser and head of the Palestinian side at the Palestinian-Israeli talks currently held in Cairo, said discussion of the release of the Palestinian detainees held in Israeli jails will be completed today. He added that the two sides are close to reaching agreement on a timetable for their release.

According to the International Red Cross, the number of the Palestinian detainees is 10,400.

Sha'th dismissed reports that the PLO excluded Hamas members from its request for the release of the detainees. He said a timetable will be devised for freeing all the detainees one way or another because the Palestinian negotiators represent the entire Palestinian people.

Sha'th spoke about the obstacles impeding progress of the negotiations with Israel, those being fixing a date for withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and signing an agreement in this respect.

He emphasized that the timetable of withdrawal is a very complex issue, particularly the starting date, which will coincide with the signing of the accord. He said: We have not yet reached agreement on such a date although we

are approaching 13 April. He added that it is difficult to predict a date for signing an agreement this week.

In his remarks, Dr. Sha'th said that the Israeli side yesterday submitted a proposal concerning the timetable for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. Dr. Sha'th noted that the present proposal is better than the unacceptable earlier proposal they made. However, we must discuss this issue more seriously today, he added.

Dr. Sha'th urged the United States, in its capacity as a cosponsor of the peace conference, to do all it can to ensure that the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles is implemented.

The Palestinian official affirmed that no specific problems currently face the Palestinian-Israeli Legal Affairs Committee. But there are still certain issues to be discussed. Dr. Sha'th maintained that the principal problem of the negotiations is the time factor, because any delay in the signing of the agreement would create further clashes and incidents that could be harmful to the peace process. We want to spare our nations bloodshed as a result of any delay in signing the agreement pertaining to the implementation of the Declaration of Principles, Dr. Sha'th added.

Meanwhile, Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, head of the Palestinian side at the Security Committee, has stated that the current negotiations are dealing with a number of basic topics that are necessary to reach an agreement during this round of negotiations. He stressed that no agreement has so far been reached in drawing up a timetable for the release of the Palestinian detainees.

In his statement, al-Yahya said: I cannot specify a date for the entry of the police corps vanguards into Gaza and Jericho. He pointed out, however, that serious efforts are currently being made to overcome the differences affecting the two sides' views. The Palestinian official expects that Israel will soon lift the security blockade imposed on the occupied territories.

Knowledgeable Palestinian sources have told MENA that the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Cairo are facing basic and serious obstacles and that the negotiations are moving in a vicious circle in view of the Israeli side's adherence to its previous stances.

The same sources pointed out that the meetings of the committees stemming from the Gaza-Jericho Committee have not made any tangible progress. They said that under the circumstances, the meetings would be a waste of time unless the Israelis change their intransigent attitude.

The Palestinian sources added that the Israeli side has so far refused to specify a timetable for the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. The Israeli side also has not submitted an acceptable proposal for the entry of the Palestinian police force into Gaza and Jericho. This is in addition to

the continuing differences over the of type of arms to be carried by the Palestinian police force, the sources said.

The sources maintained that Israel is trying to waste time and is betting on this factor to create divisions within the Palestinian ranks. Israel is also seeking to achieve gains in the negotiations, but this attempt is doomed to failure, the Palestinian sources said.

The Palestinian sources affirmed that there is now a dire need to hold a high-level meeting between the Palestinian and Israeli sides to resolve the outstanding issues. If this is not possible, then those concerned with the peace process, particularly the United States and Egypt, should intercede to resolve the problems, the sources concluded.

'Arafat, Rabin Expected To Sign Agreement in Cairo

LD1204082794 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Excerpt] In Cairo today Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin are expected to sign the agreement on implementing the autonomy in Gaza and Jericho. [passage omitted]

Talks Resume in Cairo; Sha'th Makes Statement

NC1204100494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations relating to the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement resumed in Cairo this morning. The Palestinian side was headed by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and the Israeli side by General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff.

In a statement today ahead of the talks, Dr. Sha'th said that any agreement that might be reached during today's meetings will be announced after the talks. Three committees—the Security Committee, the Civilian Affairs Committee, and the Legal Affairs Committee—will stem from the Gaza-Jericho meetings.

Israel, PLO Continue Economic Talks in Paris

Agricultural Issues Discussed

TA1104144694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Israel and the PLO have reached an understanding on the agricultural section of the economic talks being held in Paris. Our correspondent Ya'aqov Balsenboim reports that the understanding provides for open borders between Israel and the autonomy subject to tight control by Israeli security, customs, and veterinary officials. The Palestinians will be allowed to export poultry, eggs, and produce to Israel.

Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish conferred last night with Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], the PLO representative to the Paris talks, and explained to him the circumstances which led to the closure imposed on the territories in the wake of the murder in 'Afula and other terror attacks.

Talks Could End 'Next Week'

TA1104183894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The heads of the Israeli and Palestinian delegations to the economic talks in Paris believe that the talks will be wrapped up next week. Avraham Shohat and Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] issued a joint statement saying that the talks will not be concluded today, and emphasizing the good atmosphere in the deliberations.

Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that the imports policy and customs duties are the most outstanding problems in the talks.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Calls For Arab Seat at Security Council

NC1104194994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1602 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general, has called for assigning a permanent UN Security Council seat to the Arab group. He said that apart from its significant geopolitical location, the Arab world possesses sufficient human, technical, financial, and cultural resources to justify such a demand.

'Imran told MENA that a permanent Arab seat at the Security Council is necessary to defend Arab rights, particularly after the erosion of the Security Council's credibility as a result of its double-standard policies on more than one occasion.

Citing the recent Security Council resolution extending sanctions against Libya, 'Imran voiced regret at the method in which the Council has been handling the Libyan-Western dispute.

He added that the Security Council has double standards and allows itself the right to punish whom it wants but it does nothing about Israel's defiance of it and its resolutions.

'Imran said that maintaining the anti-Libyan sanctions clearly contradicts the provisions of the UN Charter which assert that a country has sovereignty over its territories and citizens.

He pointed out that the Arab League will continue trying to explain the Libyan position. He stressed adherence to the recent Arab League resolution that called for putting

the two Libyan suspects on trial before a Scottish tribunal meeting at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 5 Apr NC1204095594

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 5 April issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Chief Editor Lashes Out at Security Guards' Conduct
2. Labor Party Leader, Journalists' Trial Begins
3. Cleric Assails Artists' Antiterrorism Role
4. Ruler's Glorification Criticized
5. Cleric on "The End of Israel"
6. Writer Affirms Muslim Brothers Will Survive

CHIEF EDITOR LASHES OUT AT SECURITY GUARDS' CONDUCT

In a 1,200-word editorial entitled "The Sultan's Guards" on pages 1 and 2, Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn lashes out at the chief of the State Security Detectives Department, guards from which prevent cars from using the roads surrounding his home, arrest children for using fireworks, harass the inhabitants, and grant themselves the right to take goods from any shop without paying for them. He adds that three of these guards entered a refreshment shop for a "free" soft drink a few days ago. When the salesman asked them to pay, he was not only insulted, but one fired a bullet at his head and killed him instantly to punish him for his insolence, Husayn writes.

Husayn asks: If the chief of the State Security Detectives does not know how to select his guards—who should be the elite of the police—how can we be reassured about security in the country?

Claiming that the police are no longer bound by the law, Husayn says that this horrific incident should be punished on the political level and then on the legal level. He explains that police involvement in a battle against armed terrorism does not mean the police can turn into an armed division that acts without any controls.

Husayn maintains that the "arbitrary security approach" pursued against violent groups in Upper Egypt enhances public hostility toward the security forces. This provides fertile soil for more counter violence, he says. He criticizes officials for failing to realize that armed terrorism is a result of the crisis in the regime, which, failing to develop the democratic practice, tries to stifle that small amount of democracy achieved in the press and refuses to listen to the Islamic pulse of the nation. He notes that television shows the American soap opera *The Bold and the Beautiful*, yet someone like Shaykh al-Ghazali and cleric 'Abd-al-Sabur Shahim are banned from appearing

on television screens. "This nation has returned to Islam. If the authorities do not let it express itself peacefully within the limits of the law and the Constitution, how can it expect stability to prevail?" he asks.

He maintains that the authorities rig elections to prevent Islamists from ruling because they know that "the ruling party will not survive semiclean elections." He stresses that the battle to secure clean elections must start now because "rectifying the electoral process is crucial for rescuing the nation from its crisis."

LABOR PARTY LEADER, JOURNALISTS' TRIAL BEGINS

An 800-word report on page 1 by 'Amir 'Abd-al-Munim and Khalid Yunis says that the first hearing in the trial of the leaderships of the Labor Party and AL-SHA'B newspaper opened on Saturday "amid a crowd of Egyptian patriotic forces" and "strict security measures." The report gives an account of the hearing, at which the trial was postponed until 8 May.

CLERIC ASSAILS ARTISTS' ANTITERRORISM ROLE

In his 500-word column "This Is Our Religion" on page 12, Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali finds it ridiculous that actors and actresses who have no knowledge of Islam should be recruited in a campaign to fight terrorism and teach Islam to the public.

RULER'S GLORIFICATION CRITICIZED

A 500-word column by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus called "The Natives" on page 12 criticizes the underdeveloped world that is ruled by "tyrant regimes" for shouting the slogan: "We sacrifice blood and soul for you, Mr. President." He says the slogan is welcome when the sacrifice is made for martyrs who fall as they sincerely fight the Israeli occupier but it is a "living example of backwardness" if it is shouted in a country full of "political scandals."

Citing examples of these "scandals," 'Abd-al-Quddus suggests that the ruler in a backward country achieves an overwhelming victory by rigging elections, restricting opposition, exercising absolute authority, and controlling the press, which always glorifies him. He concludes: "My country cannot take one step forward under such conditions."

CLERIC ON "THE END OF ISRAEL"

In a 500-word article entitled "The End of Israel" on page 11, al-Azhar cleric and Consultative Council member Ibrahim Ahmad al-Waqfi cites verses 4-5 of Sura 17 of the Koran, al-Isra', in which God judged that the sons of Israel would do mischief twice on earth and be defeated twice. The writer suggests the first time might have been when Babylonian Nebuchadnezzar's army fought the Jews, killed thousands of them, and drove them out of Palestine or when the Muslims conquered Jerusalem during the time of Caliph 'Umar Ibn-al-Khattab.

He contends that we are now going through the second episode. "The Jews set up a state in Palestine and expelled its people with the help of the enemies of Islam," he says, adding that their major ally, America, supplied them with weapons and funds and made them stronger than the collective Arab nation, just like the sixth verse of the Sura promised.

Citing the same Koranic Sura, verse 7, the writer contends: The second time, the Jews would be fought and defeated by people who undo all the mischief that the Jews did in the holy lands and enter the mosque just as they did the first time.

He concludes by citing Prophet Muhammad's assertion to Muslims that they would fight Jews and triumph over them and that a rock would tell a Muslim if a Jew hid behind it and the Muslim would say: Kill him.

WRITER AFFIRMS MUSLIM BROTHERS WILL SURVIVE

Ahmad al-Malat's 2,500-word article "What are you planning? You are playing with fire" on page 5 discusses the "oppression the current regime in Egypt plots by night against the Islamic current."

He writes: The poor Egyptian people have been afflicted for 40 years with the military coup that "begot rulers who imposed themselves on the people."

He criticizes those who repeat that there is nothing called the Muslim Brothers and who deny the Muslim Brotherhood the right to take part in national dialogue.

Referring to a statement published in the 24 March edition of AL-WAFD, al-Malat criticizes former Interior Minister Hasan Abu-Basha for warning against the Muslim Brothers' pursuit of power under the pretext of upholding religious principles and for accusing them of holding an unholy alliance with terrorism.

Giving an account of what he calls the oppressive measures the authorities adopt against Muslim Brothers countrywide, he advises the authorities not to exhaust themselves by chasing the Muslim Brothers, because "they are the rock on which the heads of those before you were crushed."

He assails those who claim to adopt Islam in spite of the hatred he sees them harboring for it. He also suggests that there is restriction of al-Azhar's role and that preaching has been made exclusive to their "hired hands."

He notes the triumph of the Islamic Welfare Party in municipal elections in Turkey and accuses the media of playing down that triumph. He also praises the Islamic current in Algeria and Sudan and wishes Sudan's al-Bashir success in pursuing the Islamic course. He notes the "good steps toward enforcing God's law in Yemen" and wishes the Yemenis success.

He concludes: Attempts to "cut the wings of the Islamic call will not succeed, because our feathers grow rapidly."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on 4 'Secret' Groups in Israeli Army

PM1104131294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Apr 94 p 4

["Exclusive" interview with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat by Sawzan Abu-Husayn in Cairo "yesterday"]

[Text] [Abu-Husayn] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs, said that you and Rabin will sign an agreement before 13 October [as published]. Does that mean that there are U.S. assurances that such a step will be completed on this date?

[Arafat] Dr. al-Baz made that statement before the recent hectic and unbalanced maneuvers. While the economic talks between us and them were continuing in Paris, they decided to suspend the talks in Cairo on the pretext of celebrations in Israel. This raises the question that there are two governments in Israel: one sanctioning negotiation and another suspending it. It is one of the continued Israeli maneuvers designed to obstruct the main aspect of the negotiations, that is the withdrawal. It has become known that Israel is procrastinating to obstruct the peace agreement. Regrettably, there are—for the first time in Israeli history—tendencies inside the Israeli Army controlling the Israeli Government's policy. Rabin is a prisoner of these tendencies inside the Army.

[Abu-Husayn] But a month ago Israel was urging a speedy resumption of the negotiations to implement the agreement, so what is the secret behind this contradiction?

[Arafat] There are secret organizations inside the Israeli Army, like the French organizations that confronted the brothers in Algeria after they had signed the first and second Evian agreements. It is the same thing. There are secret organizations inside the Israeli Army seeking to obstruct the implementation of the agreement.

[Abu-Husayn] Obstructing the implementation of the agreement would lead to further violence and counterviolence. In your view, what is the solution?

[Arafat] That is true. I hold Rabin responsible, especially as any obstruction of the agreement's implementation will have serious adverse effects on the overall situation inside our occupied land, because there is a serious Israeli escalation against the Palestinians, especially from Army units, extremist elements, armed settlers, and secret organizations. There are four secret organizations in the Army: "Sha'ol's Sword," "David's Sling," "Revenge," and "Custodians of the Temple."

This is known to the cosponsors of the peace process, the United States and Russia, who have been informed of

details of the actions carried out by the secret organizations operating inside the Israeli Army.

[Abu-Husayn] Hamas and Islamic Jihad today urged preparedness for war. What is your opinion?

[Arafat] That is part of escalating the incident and a reaction to the escalation of Israeli violence.

[Abu-Husayn] After the PLO's regret for the Israelis' murder, the United States is demanding that you take a stronger position. What is your position?

[Arafat] We should not forget that victims of the bus incident include some Palestinians, as it was a public bus used by the Palestinians of 1948.

[Abu-Husayn] Do you invite Rabin to come to Cairo tomorrow to sign the agreement?

[Arafat] I agreed with the brothers in Egypt to return to Cairo on 12 April so that after this date the implementation of the withdrawal operations would begin and Israeli Army troops would be replaced by Palestinian security forces in both the Gaza and Jericho strips. So I am not going to invite Rabin. It is the cosponsors' responsibility to maintain the thrust of the peace process and force the Israelis to implement what was agreed. It is also the international community's responsibility.

[Abu-Husayn] So do you expect the signing to take place this month, at the end of it, as Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said?

[Arafat] I am not in a position to offer expectations. But let Rabin and the Israeli Government understand that obstruction is harming not only the Palestinians, but the Israelis as well.

[Abu-Husayn] Why do you not invite Rabin to sign?

[Arafat] I am not inviting Rabin to sign, because yesterday he refused to sign on 12 April—which is a defiance of the Israeli proposal. The U.S. Administration should contact Rabin, especially as it proposed this date!

[Abu-Husayn] In view of the repeated talk about the U.S. secretary of state's participation in the agreement signing, does that mean that a breakthrough concerning the date will emerge within days?

[Arafat] I do not think so.

[Abu-Husayn] When will you go to Jericho?

[Arafat] That matter is delayed for a while, because I am dealing with the events, and Israel is maneuvering for the sake of obstructing the agreement. This should be known to the Palestinians, Arabs, and the whole world. Rabin is under pressure from a force in Israel exercising obstruction. Rabin is controlled by this situation, and he has to prove otherwise!

[Abu-Husayn] How do you view the importance of the Arab position's support for the implementation of the agreement?

[Arafat] The importance of peace in confronting the warmongers for the sake of prosperity has been proved today. There have been incidents which stress the importance of bolstering peace and assuming this responsibility fully. The current situation is much more serious than it appears on the surface, and I always warn of it.

[Abu-Husayn] What would you tell those opposed to the Gaza-Jericho agreement, especially in view of the hitch in the negotiations?

[Arafat] The severity of the opposition gives you the answer...tell me who your enemies are, and I will tell you who you are! (Arafat did not elaborate)

[Abu-Husayn] What are the results of your visit to Cairo?

[Arafat] President Mubarak and Egyptian officials have made huge efforts, but regrettably, Israel is not listening to any appeals and has abandoned all the promises it made. While the Cairo negotiations have been suspended, the economic negotiations are continuing in Paris.

[Abu-Husayn] When will the negotiations resume?

[Arafat] There is talk that they should be resumed Sunday (tomorrow) [10 April]. We see Israeli attempts to avoid implementing the agreement and get around it with a view to abolishing or obstructing it.

'Arafat Comments on Israeli 'Maneuvering'

BR1104124594 Paris LE FIGARO in French 11 Apr 94 p 6

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Arielle Thedrel in Tunis; date not given: "'Arafat: 'Israelis are Destroying Peace Process'"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Thedrel] According to the Washington agreements, the Israeli Army should be out of Gaza and Jericho by 13 April. Is it still possible to keep to this schedule?

[Arafat] We, the Palestinians, are ready. As always, the obstacles are coming from the Israeli side. Let me give you an example. On 31 March we signed an agreement according to the terms of which Israel undertook to accelerate negotiations on the autonomy of Gaza and Jericho. Article 6 of this agreement stated that the Palestinian police force was to be deployed one week later. A few days ago we were about to send in the first wave of this force when the Israelis objected on a number of pretexts. They also suspended the Cairo negotiations to attend the Holocaust commemoration ceremonies. Why then, did they not also suspend the economic committee negotiations under way in Paris?

I regret to say that the Israelis are maneuvering to avoid having to precisely and honestly apply what we decided

on. In this same agreement signed last week, Israel accepted to accelerate the process of withdrawing its troops. However, last Thursday, Israeli Foreign Minister Mr. Peres announced that the negotiations—not the withdrawal—could be completed by the end of the month. Clearly, this is maneuvering.

[Thedrel] Would you go as far as to break off negotiations if the deadlines are not met?

[Arafat] That will up to the PLO bureau to decide. Remember Israeli Prime Minister Mr. Rabin's slogan: "No fixed deadlines." In December, at our meeting in Cairo, Rabin promised me the Israeli withdrawal would begin in 10 days. Several months have gone by and we are still at the same point. Mr. Rabin did not keep his promise, but nonetheless I agreed to continue with the negotiations in Oslo, Davos, Cairo, etc. Each time, we reached agreements which were then not respected. Now we have reached an impasse situation. The deadline of 13 April is almost upon us and I can still not see any concrete results on the ground. When 13 April has passed, we will have to take a very close look at the situation and face up to our responsibilities. We will have to tell our people the truth. The Israelis are currently destroying the peace process and its credibility. These delays and hesitations are playing into the hands of the extremists.

[Thedrel] But by issuing an ultimatum to the Israelis, are you not also playing into the hands of the extremists? The Hamas Islamic fundamentalists have enjoined you to call off the peace negotiations for the past year.

[Arafat] I do not take orders from Hamas. I was elected by the Palestinian National Council, not Hamas. It is my duty to ask the international community and the Security Council to shoulder their responsibilities and not to leave me standing alone against the Israeli government's maneuvering.

[Thedrel] How do you plan to defeat Palestinian extremism?

[Arafat] I will be able to reply to that question when I am in Jericho. For the time being, that is Israel's responsibility.

[Thedrel] Why did you not personally condemn the Afula attack last week?

[Arafat] The PLO condemned it. What distinction do you make between me and PLO? I am the one who gives the orders. Do not forget, either, that Palestinians were killed at Afula also.

[Thedrel] Can the current obstacles be overcome rapidly?

[Arafat] Yes, if there is the will to do so. If this region, which is very important strategically, does not find peace, it will be thrown into confusion. However, if we do manage to find peace, it will signal the start of a whole new era.

PLO Radio on 'Arafat's Phone Call to Christopher

*JN1204090794 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1600 GMT 11 Apr 94*

[Text] Brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has held a telephone contact with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during which he called on the United States to effectively intervene to render the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations a success. He explained that we are at the threshold of being committed to the implementation of total Israeli withdrawal from the Jericho area and the Gaza Strip on 13 April.

The Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, mentioned that brother leader Abu-'Ammar has also called for expediting the implementation of international resolution No. 904 on the protection of our Palestinian people. WAFA said brother leader Abu-'Ammar said he believes any delay in the implementation of the pledges and the timetable will negatively affect the entire peace process, harm it, and cause it to lose its credibility.

WAFA also pointed out that during the telephone contact, the two sides discussed the deteriorating situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and the developments that have been taking place since the Ibrahim Mosque massacre in Hebron and how these developments have harmed the entire peace process and the negotiations.

'Abd-Rabbuh Says Rabin 'Destroying' Basis for Peace

*LD1104195594 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 11 Apr 94*

[Statement by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of PLO Executive Committee—read by announcer]

[Text] Rabin's government bears the responsibility for destroying the foundations on which the peace process had embarked, particularly that the head of the Israeli Government was the first one to declare that the dates of the agreement were not sacred.

Since the Oslo agreement, Israel has been submitting proposals which contradicted the core and the articles of the agreements in all areas of security, administration and economy; a matter that might result in an organized form of occupation instead of ending it.

The Israeli side to the negotiations proposes limited and restricted prerogatives for the Palestinian police force. It also proposes a map of the withdrawal from Gaza Strip that will in fact lead to the enlargement of the settlements, as this map stretches to 13 kms along the Palestinian coast and other area in parallel to the Green Line. This is done to weaken and marginalize the role of the Palestinian authority; and to maintain the control of the occupation in a camouflaged way.

These Israeli stances and proposals are responsible for a lack of a real progress in the negotiations, and for

reaching the date of 13 April without achieving any results; contrary to the claims of the government of Rabin that is trying to blame this delay on the PLO.

The Palestinian position, expressed following the Hebron massacre and the suspension of negotiations, is not the reason behind the lack of progress. On the contrary, the facts confirm that Israel's measures, taken in the aftermath of the massacre by imposing wide-ranging sanctions against the Palestinian people represented in the imposition of a curfew, an economic embargo, acts of killings committed by forces of occupation in Hebron and Gaza, and especially the assassination of six cadres from the PLO's militants are responsible for such a delay of progress.

All this represents the real reason behind a delay in the negotiations; and behind stripping them from any seriousness and credibility. The Israeli proposals, currently submitted on the negotiating table in Cairo, continue to revolve around the same framework, i.e., they aim to strip the agreement of the transitional phase from its content; and to replace the withdrawal with new forms of occupation and hegemony.

The government of Israel bears responsibility for the quasi-impasse that the peace negotiations have reached. There are no indications that point to the serious desire of the Israeli Government to reach a fundamental progress during the coming weeks. The PLO will deal with this situation from the point of view of our experience in the negotiations of the past months and the negative results that we have reached, to protect the interests and rights of our people; and to establish the peace process on serious and effective foundations.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Israeli Proposals, U.S. Stand

NC1104192794 London MBC Television in Arabic
1800 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, by Mufidah al-Hashani in Tunis; date not given—recorded]

[Text] PLO Information Department Head Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has said the negotiations with Israel are being obstructed. He criticized the U.S. position toward the faltering Middle East peace process. Mufidah al-Hashani interviewed 'Abd-Rabbuh in Tunis:

['Abd-Rabbuh] The situation has actually resulted from the Israeli position, which offers proposals that try to regulate the occupation more than end the occupation of the Palestinian territories. The Israelis propose some ideas that aim to slice off parts of Gaza, especially in the coastal area and along the green line between the Gaza Strip and Israel. They also propose other ideas, greatly restricting and narrowing the powers of the Palestinian authorities and police.

[Al-Hashani] What is the new Palestinian proposal?

['Abd-Rabbuh] What is now required is that the peace process be salvaged on a new basis and through a new approach; that is by the immediate transition to negotiations on the final stage.

[Al-Hashani] What is the current U.S. stand on the negotiations?

['Abd-Rabbuh] So far we have not sensed a serious U.S. stand to affect the course of negotiations. The U.S. side merely presents proposals of a procedural and administrative nature.

Spokesman: Sealing Off Jerusalem 'Danger' to Peace

LD1104192094 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Statement issued by official PLO spokesman—read by announcer]

[Text] The city of Jerusalem, the capital of the Palestinian people, has been isolated and besieged for several days where roads leading to it have been closed, its national institutions have been prohibited from carrying out their activities and a siege of terror has been imposed around worship sites. These measures were taken to make changes on the ground and to force its people to flee after the Israeli authorities closed doors of meeting out their means of living in their faces and preventing them from reaching their workplaces, using the Afula incident as an excuse while ignoring their incompetence in dealing with the Hebron massacre and its aftermath when settlers committed more killings against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza strip, an act in which the Israeli army participated.

This serious incident falls within a known framework of policy practiced by the Israeli government entailing mass punishment of the Palestinian people following the acts of violence—which cannot be avoided or controlled as long as this government gives settlers a free reign to kill and carry out acts of violence and terrorism, and as long as it does not cooperate in eradicating explosive hotbeds through the peaceful process, starting with moving settlers from Hebron. Such a measure would calm sentiments and prove its rejection of the horrific massacre and killings by settlers and the army while hundreds of worshipers prayed in al-Ibrahimi mosque and which spilled over into the West Bank and Gaza strip.

The PLO sees in that Israeli policy, which escalated the collective punishment measures to the extent of resorting to importing tens of thousands of Asian laborers, as being a source of danger and threat to the whole peace process. Accordingly, the PLO, while rejecting the Israeli policy, is concerned to make the international community and Security Council states stand up to these dangerous Israeli practices. It urges the cosponsors—the U.S. and Russia—to intervene to relieve the suffering, oppression, and killing of the Palestinian people, and to save the peace process.

Events and incidents have proved that security precautions, however big and severe, will not succeed in stopping violence and crime. In the end, every party would be able to make bloody penetrations which would complicate matters.

Accordingly, the PLO sees that the latest Israeli measures are pushing matters into a path which run in the opposite direction to the peace process. The inflexible parties in the Israeli government have found their chance to destroy this process, a matter which will drag the region into conflicts, bloody and violent events, thwarting all dreams of security, stability and peace.

We call on the international community, particularly the American and Russian cosponsors, to intervene and put a stop to the total massacre of our Palestinian people in the occupied territories—which affects the core of their daily lives ranging from the attack on their sanctities and institutions, to starve them, confiscating their means of living and preventing them from moving around. These measures are harming all Palestinian sectors, especially the health sector.

Ten More Palestinians To Return to Territories

*NC1104151094 Paris AFP in English 1428 GMT
11 Apr 94*

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, April 11 (AFP)—Another 10 Palestinians deported by Israel are set to return to the occupied territories next week, a PLO official told AFP on Monday [11 April].

"Our delegation in Cairo told me Israel was going to allow 10 deportees to come back next week," said Rashid Abu-Shibak.

Israel, which has expelled about 1,700 Palestinians since 1967, allowed 49 Palestinians to return to the territories last week.

Abu-Shibak was sent back to Gaza by the PLO last week to oversee the handover of official buildings as the Israelis pull-back.

Israeli military officials said they were unaware of any decision to allow another group of deportees to return.

PLO on Dialogue To Resolve Conflict With Hamas

*NC1104113794 Paris AFP in English 1128 GMT
11 Apr 94*

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza City, April 11 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organization and the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas have opened talks in the Gaza strip to try to halt conflict between themselves, a PLO official said.

"A meeting of senior PLO and Hamas leaders took place last week to sort out daily problems and the two groups decided to carry on the dialogue," the official told AFP.

"The discussions are serious and positive and we hope to reach an agreement. We respect the position of Hamas on autonomy in Gaza and Jericho," he added.

The fundamentalist organization has sworn to fight on against Israel despite the September 19 autonomy deal, which it considers a sell-out.

A Hamas official confirmed that a meeting had taken place after an armed clash between rival militants left 18 wounded in the Rafah refugee camp at the end of March. But he refused to say more until an accord was struck.

The fight erupted over a piece of wasteland on which PLO supporters played football and Hamas wanted to build a doctor's clinic.

Then on April 2, Fatah and Hamas each kidnapped one of the other's supporters in Gaza City. Both hostages were freed unharmed after lengthy negotiations.

A Palestinian research centre last month found that 40 percent of the Gaza Strip would vote in elections for PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah movement and nearly 20 percent for Hamas.

Fatah, Hamas Said To Reach Understanding

*TA0304084094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Report by Netan'el Semrik]

[Excerpt] Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] have reached an agreement in Hebron. This is reportedly a gentlemen's agreement, without any written documentation to attest it. According to the understanding reached, Hamas will not act against Fatah or against the potential benefits of the peace process. Both sides prefer the wording here to be intentionally vague. This is how Husayn al-Shaykh, one of the prominent Fatah leaders in the West Bank and an adviser to the Palestinian peace delegation, defines the situation:

[Begin al-Shaykh recording] There is no war between us and Hamas; therefore, no agreement is required. I am sure that Hamas knows its limits and our red line very well and that in the future, it will share power with us. [end recording]

The understandings were reached recently, following a series of secret meetings between some seven to 10 people from both organizations. The gist of the Hebron agreement is that Hamas accepts Fatah as the leader in the political process, even if it does not agree with it. It should be emphasized that 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, Hamas' military arm, does not recognize and is not bound by these understandings. [passage omitted]

PFLP, DFLP Assail 'Oslo-Cairo Agreement'

JN1104165894 Amman NIDA' AL-WATAN in Arabic
7 Apr 94 pp 24-25

[By 'Ulayyan 'Ulayyan]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] NIDA' AL-WATAN has met with the most two prominent leaders of the democratic Palestinian current, comrade Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and comrade Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. They discussed the Hebron massacre and its dimensions in light of the [Israeli-PLO] Cairo agreement, analyzed the agreement, and defined the tasks needed to confront the challenges of the current phase.

While holding both the Zionist enemy leaders and the United States directly responsible for the Hebron massacre, comrade Dr. Habash did not exempt Oslo's Palestinian team from responsibility. He said: We do not exempt 'Arafat and the Palestinian Oslo-Cairo team from their clear responsibility for the terrorism, killings, and repression being committed against our people because they signed humiliating agreements in Washington and Cairo. In essence, these agreements entrench and protect both the occupation and the settlements and keep our masses and territories subject to attacks by the occupation and its settlers.

Dr. Habash linked the submissive agreements to the massacre, and drew specific conclusions. He said: The Hebron mosque massacre was the peak of the tragedy and a reply to the defeatists. It also confirmed that there would be no coexistence or security as long as both the occupation and its settlements exist on our territory. The only solution is to end the occupation, remove all settlements from our territory, and implement the resolutions of international legitimacy. These resolutions recognize our people's inalienable national rights; namely, the rights to repatriation, self-determination, and an independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. [passage omitted]

Comrade Nayif Hawatimah discussed the most prominent dimensions and implications of this massacre in light of the Oslo agreement and in view of the insistence by the collapsing bureaucratic leadership on continuing this humiliating course. He said: This hideous massacre and the subsequent killings and repression against our people have highlighted the vast distance between 'Arafat and his team on the one hand and our people's interests, rights, and daily concerns on the other. They have also highlighted the vast distance between the bitter and hard situation our people are experiencing under occupation and the so-called Cairo agreement signed by

'Arafat and his team with the Israeli side. The al-Ibrahimi Mosque's massacre and the subsequent repression are simply the bitter and poisonous fruit of both this agreement and the Oslo accord. A direct threat is posed to our people by the daily attacks carried out by the settlers and the occupation troops through a chain of bloody massacres. The al-Ibrahimi Mosque's massacre will not be the last link in this chain. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Cairo agreement and its dimensions and implications, Dr. Habash said: A scrutiny of the Cairo agreement and its details reveals the extent of the Oslo team's collapse. The largest implication of this agreement is that it exposed and foiled all the delusions and demagoguery the collapsing leadership tried to instill in our people's minds. This team also suggested that the Oslo agreement addresses basic issues and contains prospects for proceeding toward a Palestinian state and laying the foundation stone for Palestinian national sovereignty. Consequently, 'Arafat and his team have made many statements stressing that this agreement is a phased one and that we will ultimately obtain self-determination, a Palestinian state, Jerusalem, the removal of settlements, the crossing points, security, Jericho, and other issues.

Dr. Habash added: The Cairo agreement's value lies in the fact that it verified the viewpoint rejecting the Oslo agreement and it told the advocates of the Madrid approach that the final phase would be determined in light of the final balance of powers. The crossing points and the Jericho issue cannot be relinquished. The recent agreement signed in Cairo was even uglier and more humiliating than the Oslo agreement. [passage omitted]

Comrade Nayif Hawatimah pointed out that the mosque massacre highlighted the Palestinian national consensus on the fact that the Cairo agreement signed by 'Arafat and Peres does not provide the minimum of security and protection for our people under occupation and that the Oslo-Cairo track has reached a deadlock. It is a national imperative to halt negotiations until the settlements are dismantled and the settlers are evacuated from the occupied Palestinian territories, including Arab Jerusalem, as well as to provide protection through UN troops, and to reformulate the overall negotiations process based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. These resolutions provide for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and for the right to self-determination, independence, and repatriation.

Comrade Hawatimah urged 'Arafat's leadership to resign in order to allow our people to elect a reliable national leadership that would be a symbol of national consensus. He said: The past weeks have shown that the pro-'Arafat wing cares more for the Oslo-Cairo agreement and for holding negotiations according to the humiliating Madrid-Oslo terms than for our people's interests and national rights. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Malek Resigns; Sefi Appointed Prime Minister

*LD1104111594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1100 GMT 11 Apr 94*

[Text] Mr. Mokhdad Sefi has been appointed as prime minister. President Liamine Zeroual this morning received Mr. Mokhdad Sefi [equipment minister in outgoing government] and charged him with forming the government after Mr. Redha Malek tendered the resignation of his government, which was accepted by the head of state.

Malek's Efforts Praised

*LD1104130194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 11 Apr 94*

[Resignation statement of Prime Minister Redha Malek, read by presidency spokesman Mihoub Mihoubi]

[Text] This morning State President Liamine Zeroual appointed Mokhdad Sefi as prime minister, replacing Redha Malek who earlier today presented his resignation and that of his government to the state president. The resignation statement was read this afternoon before the national press by Mihoub Mihoubi, the official spokesman for the presidency.

[Begin Mihoubi recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. This morning President Liamine Zeroual met with Redha Malek, who turned in the resignation of his government. The president accepted this resignation and took the opportunity to praise the efforts made by Redha Malek and the government members which he led with all dedication and self-denial. Thank you. [end recording]

A short while after this the official spokesman for the presidency presented a statement on the appointment of Mokhdad Sefi as prime minister with a biography of the latter.

[Resume Mihoubi recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. President Liamine Zeroual today received Mokhdad Sefi whom he appointed as prime minister in replacement of Redha Malek. Mokhdad Sefi was born on 21 April 1940. He is married and has four children. He is a former student in the Shakyh Larbi Tebessi school and Saint-Augustin secondary school in Annaba. He has a degree in physics from Algiers University and has made advanced studies in physical chemistry in the universities of Algiers and Paris. He obtained a diploma of a mechanical and electrical engineer in Paris, and has occupied several functions including: engineer of gas works in SONALGAZ, the national company for electricity and gas; director of industrial projects at the Ministry of Industry; director general of coordination and control at the Ministry of Trade; secretary general of the Ministry of Public Works; secretary general of the Ministry of Finance;

head of a mission at the premiership; head of the prime minister's office; and finally minister of equipment.

The new prime minister is due to meet the national press this afternoon, and afterward there will be a handover of functions ceremony between former Prime Minister Redha Malek and his successor Mokhdad Sefi. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Sifi Outlines Goals, Plans

*LD1104155494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1500 GMT 11 Apr 94*

[Statement by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, issued in Algiers on 11 April]

[Text] How can I, as a responsible Algerian who has spent all his life at the service of the homeland, run away from this responsibility, with the certainty that my country can, with the help of God Almighty, get rid of its crisis by mobilizing everybody and achieving concord and understanding between all its loyal sons, Algeria's sons who love Algeria.

Thus I have accepted this heavy and difficult responsibility represented by taking in charge the burdens of the prime minister while I have in my mind the following basic preoccupations:

- Consolidating the state's institutions,
- Reviving the national economy,
- Promoting national solidarity.

I hope to find among Algerians—I believe this is possible—men and women who have the necessary competence to achieve the break up which the head of state called for. This is the break up with the negative practices of the past. This break up will enable to give to this people again confidence in itself and in its government, state, and future.

The new government headed by Mokdad Sifi will work for the respect of all the commitments which Algeria took at the national and international levels.

Malek, Sifi Comment

LD1104201394 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] A ceremony was held today at the premiership headquarters at which the former head of government, Redha Malek, handed over his duties to the new prime minister, Mokdad Sifi. Nacira Ait Salah reports:

[Salah] Following his appointment as head of government, the takeover ceremony between Redha Malek and Mokdad Sifi, the new head of government, took place this evening:

[Begin Malek recording] We have carried out our duty in total faithfulness and sincerity to the nation and to the great Algerian people. I wish the new head of government, brother Sifi, all success in his noble and difficult

task. I wish progress and prosperity to the proud Algerian people. [end recording]

[Salah] The new head of government promised that the new government will be formed as soon as possible and that the government reshuffle will not be a radical one. On the contrary, some ministers will keep their portfolios. [passage indistinct]

[Begin Sifi recording] I will endeavor to see this take place as soon as possible, God willing. However, anything that is useful requires time. I will exert efforts on the ground to see this happen as soon possible, God willing. [end recording]

Economy Minister Explains Devaluation Policy

LD1104175694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Excerpts] The devaluation of the dinar came into effect yesterday in implementation of the conditional agreement signed by Algerian financial authorities and the International Monetary Fund. This measure, which was adopted by the Algerian Government, as the economy minister said, on the basis of an objective analysis of our economic, financial and monetary realities, raised several questions among the public and citizens with regard to its direct repercussions on prices, salaries and other things. Mourad Benachenchou, the economy minister tried to answer these questions in an interview granted to today's AL KHABAR. [passage omitted].

The economy minister said that the official devaluation of the dinar would have an influence on internal prices only in one case, which is an increase in distributed income without an equivalent at the level of production. Benachenchou said that even if citizens notice an increase in prices they have to know that this increase has no link with the economic reality, but stems from maneuvers of profiteers who exploit the lack of information of citizens about the mechanisms of the economy for personal interests.

The economy minister said that the devaluation of the dinar constitutes an element in any policy aiming at returning to sound management of the economy.

The value of the dinar is linked to the economic, financial, and monetary policy which we will follow. Benachenchou added: If we control this policy properly, the value of the dinar will not decrease, but if we do not reach a budget in which the income of the country and our expenditures are at the same level, we will return once more to the devaluation of the dinar.

With regard to possible amendments at the level of salaries this year, Benachenchou stressed that that matter was linked to a change in the revenues of the country. If there is a growth in the gross domestic product, there will naturally be a wage increase but, as Mourad Benachenchou added, if the opposite takes place, any wage

increase will lead to inflation and a deterioration of the purchasing power of wage earners.

FIS Leader Comments

NC1204082694 Paris AFP in English 0728 GMT
12 Apr 94

[Text] Beirut, April 12 (AFP)—A senior leader of Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has blasted a government decision to devalue the dinar and ruled out plans to abide by Algeria's future financial accords.

The decision to devalue the dinar by 40 percent which went into effect Saturday was "not in Algeria's interest," the London-based AL-HAYAH newspaper quoted Rabah Kebir, FIS leader outside Algeria, as saying in an interview published Tuesday.

Under a deal struck with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Algeria is to receive a 1-billion dollar loan. The measure also opened the door for other financial aid to the country.

"The move does not solve the financial crisis facing Algeria. It is worsening it," Kebir told AL-HAYAH in the telephone interview, according to the daily which is published in several Arab capitals.

"The front has said in the past its respect for loans contracted by the former Algerian Governments but it announced after the coup (scrapping of 1992 elections) that it would not respect any new loans," Kebir said.

The FIS "considers any loan or any financial assistance from any country as not beneficial for the Algerian people.

"These loans contribute to criminals who kill innocents in the streets," he added.

The devaluation has triggered criticism in Algeria.

Islamic groups have said the government crackdown on militants claimed more than 500 lives and was part of a plan to "help the country swallow the IMF plan's impoverishing of the masses."

Algeria's main trade union, the UGTA [General Union of Algerian Workers], said it was unhappy that it was not included in the IMF negotiations and will call for strikes if the effects of the devaluation become unbearable for workers.

Other associations said the plan was not well-adapted to social conditions in the country and have pledged to form an "anti-IMF front."

After the devaluation, the dollar stands at 36 dollars.

Security Forces Detain 53, Eliminate 12

LD1104213494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] A communique of the security services has let it be known that the security forces were able to eliminate 12 terrorists and arrest 53 others between Saturday and Sunday.

FIS Leaders Refuse To Meet With Independent Group

PM1104144094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Apr 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Qasiyy Salih al-Darwish: "Madani and Belhadj Refuse To Meet With Independent Delegation"]

[Excerpt] Paris—Contrary to rumors circulating on the Algerian scene in recent days, reliable sources have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front, refused to meet with a delegation of national figures who are independent of the regime and have for two weeks been engaged in a political initiative to create a dialogue mechanism to secure a solution to the serious political crisis, on the basis that resolving the Algerian crisis concerns not only the regime, but all influential political forces.

According to the sources, Madani and Belhadj voiced a number of reservations about this meeting, including the presence of former President Ahmed Ben Bella, who made strong criticisms of the Salvation Front at different times, even though he is now strongly urging the regime to pursue a real and serious dialogue policy with all political parties, including the Salvation Front leadership.

The independent national figures delegation comprised six members: Mohamed Saleh Yahiaoui and Taher Zobiri (they represent the Algeria eastern region; they are two former military officials), Ahmed Ben Bella and Ben Ella (they represent the western region; the latter was chairman of the council at the beginning of independence and governor of one of the states during the revolution); and Ahmed Mehsas and Mohamed Said Mazouzi (they represent the center; they were both ministers in the days of Boumediene, but Mehsas, who is a well-known and respected national figure, later resigned from the government and lived in exile, joining opposition ranks, while Mazouzi remained minister after Boumediene's death, and was considered representative of the left wing in the regime. He is from the tribes region).

Instead of the delegation's meeting with Madani and Belhadj, it met with Shaykhs Ali Djeddi and Abdel Kader Boukhamkham, members of the Salvation leadership who were released from prison recently. The meeting atmosphere was positive, even though it did not produce any tangible results. Further meetings between the two sides are not ruled out. [passage omitted]

Egypt**Sidqi, al-Alfi Urge Extension for Emergency Law**

NC1104212094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has stated that the emergency law will be applied within a strictly regulated legal framework and will be subject in all cases to judicial supervision. He explained that the powers that this law confers on the executive branch will be used within the narrowest limits, in accordance with public security requirements, and will not infringe on the lawful expression of opinion.

In a statement to the People's Assembly today, the prime minister said that the government will promptly terminate the state of emergency as soon as the causes that made it necessary disappear.

Dr. Sidqi recalled that the government had formerly submitted to the People's Assembly several reports about the dangers threatening the country as a result of extremist, corrupt ideologies, and the terrorism organized by lowly, dishonorable terrorist groups whose only objective is to sabotage the country, spread confusion, and kill innocent people.

Sidqi emphasized that the determined battle against terrorism and extremism will continue unabated until terrorism is completely eradicated so that the country's political, economic, and social progress can be safeguarded.

He explained that this suspect terrorist faction has taken the liberty of plundering people's possessions, honor, and lives and made free with matters made taboo by God, perpetrating vile and ignorant acts, spreading corruption in the world, calling society infidel, and separating husband from wife under the guise of religion. He declared that true Islam eschews such acts.

Sidqi said: We must distinguish between piety and terrorist extremism. Piety must be encouraged and purified of all erroneous and misleading ideologies because religious piety is a basic component of the Egyptian citizen's character. A sound society capable of development and progress is a society that adheres to religious values and codes of conduct that renounce violence and terrorism.

He pointed out that extremists and terrorists seek to impose their custodianship on society through a hardline ideology that is contrary to religious teachings or through armed violence and bloodshed. He asserted that these acts must be confronted and exposed as totally unconnected with religion.

Sidqi told the People's Assembly that the government has made great strides in its campaign to encircle the terrorists, extremist rings, and their leaders. He said the security services' successful preemptive strikes against them have reduced their influence, penetrated their

ranks, exposed their conspiracies, and destroyed many of their organizational structures.

He announced that the terrorists and extremists will not succeed through their criminal acts in achieving their objectives because Egypt is a strong country with a democratic system, founded on constitutional provisions and the sovereignty of the law. He said Egypt is the home of the venerable institution of al-Azhar and its people are committed to their values and moderate religion, renounce fanaticism and extremism, and are willing to make sacrifices to purge their country from the terrorists' vileness and corruption.

He explained that the government's policy in combating terrorism is firm, courageous, and clear and that it adheres, despite the terrorists' excesses, to legality and the sovereignty of the law. He added that the government is seeking to promote stability and to strengthen and develop the security services to enable them to maintain the initiative against extremist activity. He explained that the authorities are continuing their timely surveillance of the extremists' plans and are arresting their leaders and fugitive members, both at home and abroad. Sidqi explained that this is being done via coordination and cooperation with the concerned departments in friendly countries, in line with international and bilateral agreements.

The prime minister said that emergency laws are primarily concerned with enabling the state, in extraordinary circumstances, to adopt quick and necessary measures to defend security, stability, human life, utilities, and vital installations.

He continued: There is a need to maintain the state of emergency in view of the regrettable terrorist acts in the country, including attacks on tourists, assassination of officials, bombing of banks, and the treacherous killing of innocent citizens, police officers and police commanders.

Dr. Sidqi asserted that enforcing the emergency law is not an aim in itself but an option made necessary by events in order to protect our installations, utilities, public order, and homeland from those who would wreak destruction on them.

He pointed out that Egypt is not alone in applying an emergency law and that most other countries have constitutional provisions that organize states of emergency and set regulations for combating terrorism and extremism. He referred to the UK's annual extension of the emergency antiterrorism law in Northern Ireland since 1974 by an act of Parliament. He said other countries, including France, Italy, and Germany apply such laws to fight terrorism when necessary.

The prime minister explained to the People's Assembly that the state of emergency in Egypt has been in force since 1981 to defend important installations and to deter terrorists and hostile foreign conspiracies that seek to

undermine Egypt's stability in concert with local terrorists. He added that it is difficult to handle such matters with normal laws whereas emergency regulations are designed for such contingencies in order to defend the homeland.

He reiterated that the extraordinary powers provided by the emergency law have not been used in Egypt except within the narrowest boundaries, in line with a strictly regulated legal framework, and under judicial supervision. He said they have never been used to infringe on people expressing lawful views and there has not been a single violation of this policy. He pointed out that, on the contrary, the government has sometimes refrained from using these powers out of confidence in the loyalty of the Egyptian public, who will not remain silent about any violation of our values, traditions, and morals.

Sidqi said this became evident recently when the citizens started helping the security forces pursue terrorists and extremists. He noted that there is an increasing popular anger with the terrorists.

In his statement Prime Minister Sidqi affirmed that the government has made a pledge to itself and to the People's Assembly that it will place the homeland's interest above any other consideration and that Egypt's stability and security is the first and foremost aim behind the extension of the state of emergency. He added that in light of the government's reports to the People's Assembly on the security situation, which highlight that this problem will remain as long these abnormal ideas exist in the minds of some people with limited knowledge and experience, presidential Decision No. 116 for 1994 extending the state of emergency for another period effective 1 June must be approved.

Prime Minister Sidqi explained that there are three principles that the government has affirmed each time it has asked the People's Assembly to extend the emergency law. These principles are that the state of emergency will be applied strictly in accordance with the law, that the law will be used in the narrowest limits, and that the government will not hesitate to end the state of emergency once the reasons for it no longer exist.

Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi then delivered a statement before the People's Assembly on the extension of the emergency law. He expressed the opinion that although the emergency law is directly linked to the issue of freedoms, it is at the same time also linked to grave events, dangers, and threats which are fully clear to the whole nation. He said the succession of events in the last few months has underlined the size and extent of the terrorist threat. In seeking the application of the emergency law, the government is fully committed to implementing it within the narrowest limits and according the requirements of the security situation. He added that facts have imposed themselves on the whole nation. It is not only the homeland's stability that is being threatened; the homeland's very existence and foundations are also being threatened. He explained that terrorism is no

longer a phenomenon that can be dealt with on various integrated levels. Terrorism has become a serious challenge to the people's rights and aspirations and an overt conspiracy against their destiny.

In his statement before the People's Assembly, al-Alfi said that the powers entailed in the emergency law have given the security authorities an important area for quick and early action to confront terrorist schemes. These powers, to which there are no alternatives, have boosted the security efforts.

Al-Alfi stressed that the terrorist conspiracy aims to push the country toward complete chaos by striking at its economic interests, assassinating its executive and legislative leaders, and attempting to cause sectarian sedition. He explained that the terrorist plan in the past few years has resulted in 14 bombings in densely populated areas, indiscriminate terrorist operations that resulted in the death of 97 citizens and the wounding of 292 others, and terrorist operations against 35 tourism targets that led to the death of 12 tourists and the wounding of 50 others. This has paralyzed tourism, considerably hurt the national income, and deprived thousands of citizens of legitimate means of livelihood. He added that matters have developed into attempts to target the banking sector. Eight bombings have occurred in front of some banks. This plan has been contained and most of its elements have been apprehended.

Al-Alfi noted that 37 police officers have been killed so far, the last of whom was Maj. Gen. Ra'uf Khayrat the day before yesterday. A total of 98 policemen have also been killed and 129 others wounded.

Al-Alfi explained that the statistics that he gave affirm the need to continue with the emergency law. He noted that the People's Assembly's approval of the extension of the emergency law in the past few years is considered an expression of the people's will, a full realization of the dimensions and gravity of the situation, and an awareness that some persons' betrayal of their homeland has opened the door for foreign designs against the country's supreme national interests.

Al-Alfi said the current phase of all-out national confrontation of this threat is an interim one between the phase of seizing the initiative and the phase of full control over the dimensions of the terrorist design. He warned that any weakening of the powers available for the confrontation elements might lead to negative and unfavorable results. He added that the security services' confrontation of terrorism is based on a conviction that they are authorized by the people to defend their ideals and aspirations and to uphold the law. He explained that the apprehension of the terrorist groups and the discovery of their hideouts are the best testimony that the security authorities are determined to confront terrorism to the end and without hesitation. He said that whoever believes that terrorism can intimidate the people is imagining things.

Addressing those opposed to extending the emergency law, al-Alfi affirmed that exceptional powers to face exceptional circumstances cannot justify the violation of legitimacy and law or violating the guarantees and rights of the freedom of expression. He also affirmed that not one single measure was or will be taken against any view or any political action.

The interior minister explained that, despite all the guarantees stipulated in the law concerning the extraordinary measures granted by the emergency law, the law has not been used as a substitute for any judicial measure or for a fair trial of any suspect. He said all Egyptian citizens are responsible for the nation's stability and defense. He added that the government's programs and policy do not discount any serious work at political, economic, and social levels in confronting terrorism.

In his address to the People's Assembly today, al-Alfi said the security action with its effectiveness and normal legal measures represents a cornerstone in achieving goals and that the emergency law is applied only in necessary cases. He emphasized that an effective, continuous security action is one of the guarantees of adhering to the emergency law in the narrowest sense to avert haphazard or unplanned measures.

He referred to the guarantees stipulated in Law No. 162 of 1958, amended by Law No. 50 of 1982 on the regulation of the emergency situation. He said the amendments provided in Law No. 97 of 1992 aimed to criminalize some acts and introduce stricter punishment for other punishable crimes. All these amendments, he added, did not make any changes to preventive measures and arrangements that should be adopted when necessary. He noted that the emergency law is the only alternative available in the exceptional circumstances we are facing.

Al-Alfi affirmed in his address to the People's Assembly that the powers granted by the emergency law still represent significant support in confronting the growing drug trafficking activity and illegal trade in weapons and explosives, and in criminal activities.

He noted that 428 people who were on record as drug traffickers have been arrested in the last three years and that 3,183 others were arrested in the same period in cases involving robberies, hooliganism, morals, public property, and vendetta rivalries. He said that tightening the grip on criminal activities is not separate from stepping up measures to face terrorists acts.

He stressed that the extension of the emergency law for three more years is necessary and said that submitting this request to the People's Assembly is a necessity required by duty not to give up our efforts in the face of a momentous challenge.

People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur referred the statements of the prime minister and the minister of interior to the assembly's General Committee for discussion.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak had referred the presidential decree No. 116 of 1994 on extending the emergency law to the People's Assembly. The decree stipulates that the emergency law be extended from 1 June (?1994) till 31 May 1997.

Dr. Surur passed the decree on to the assembly's General Committee, which is to discuss it and compile a report to be forwarded to the assembly in its next session.

Dr. Surur decided to hold an urgent meeting of the General Committee at the end of today's session to discuss the presidential decree.

Emergency Law Approved

NC1104212994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Excerpt] The People's Assembly resumed its meetings this evening under the chairmanship of Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur. The Assembly unanimously and conclusively approved the president's Decree 116 for 1994, extending the state of emergency for three years ending 31 May 1997. [passage omitted]

Paper Notes U.S., Israeli Plans To Build Military Base

NC1104165094 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] Available information has confirmed that the United States and Israel are currently planning to set up the most sophisticated military base in the Middle East region. A joint military committee has been formed to set up the base 23 kilometers east of the occupied city of Jerusalem.

According to information, a senior Zionist official recently presented U.S. military officials with two separate maps for that purpose. The new base will serve the joint American-Israeli interests in the region. It will be equipped with the most sophisticated U.S. long-range and medium-range missile systems, in addition to multisystem rocket launchers. The base will be automatically connected to Sixth Fleet operations in the Mediterranean and will act as one of its tributaries. American and Israeli military experts will supervise the base.

Information indicates that the new military base will help the Israeli plan of planting nuclear warheads in the holy places.

Al-Baz Returns From U.S. Visit

NC1104182694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, returned to Cairo this afternoon after a week-long visit to the United States.

During his visit al-Baz discussed the current peace efforts and Egyptian-U.S. ties with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

He also discussed with senior White House officials the recent developments of the Middle East peace operation.

AL-AKHBAR Terms NATO Action in Bosnia 'Disappointing'

NC1204075194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—In its commentary today, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR says the raid waged by two NATO planes against Serbian forces positioned around Gorazde will not deter Serbian commanders from pressing ahead with their criminal attacks on various towns and villages in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The newspaper asks if a mission by two NATO planes conducted once every few months is sufficient to end two years of bestial aggression against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The paper recalls the "limited" air strike that NATO planes directed against Serbian forces besieging Sarajevo a few months ago to force them to pull back their heavy weapons from Sarajevo's immediate vicinity. Despite that strike, the paper writes, Serbian forces continued to return the weapons that they pulled back earlier so as to use them to kill as many of Sarajevo's inhabitants as possible.

The world must be puzzled by the inability of the United Nations and the UN Security Council to discipline a state as small as Serbia, the paper says. AL-AKHBAR asks: What if the aggressor were a stronger nation and one with more clout than Serbia?

The paper points out that the Bosnian tragedy, coming after the Cold War, was a test of the so-called new world order. The results have been disappointing, AL-AKHBAR concludes.

Journalists Association Holds Emergency Session

NC1204062094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—The Journalists Association Council has held an emergency session chaired by the Association's deputy chairman Jalal 'Isa. At the request of seven members of the council, the Association discussed the repeated arrests of journalists and their interrogation by the state security prosecution and military prosecution branches in cases related to publication and opinion.

The Association said that these arrests run counter to the criminal procedures law, the Journalists Association Law, and all other laws that safeguard the security of the journalist. The arrests threaten all the immunities enjoyed by journalists, the Association added.

The Council's statement notes that some of these procedures are arbitrary and that journalists are being mistreated by the interrogation body, which is entrusted with defending journalists and obeying the law. The interrogation body has failed to notify the Journalists Association to attend the interrogation sessions dealing with publication crimes. This is a basic and important issue guaranteed by the law, the Council added.

The Council said the Association refuses to permit journalists to be treated like criminals or ex-convicts [words indistinct].

The Council called on all the state's [words indistinct] to respect the immunities guaranteed the press and journalists by the laws and constitution. The Council reiterates the Association's great desire to maintain healthy and frank relations with all state bodies. The Association also stressed that it will not cede any of its rights to defend journalists with all legitimate methods against any infringement or attack.

The Council said that the current circumstances through which the country is passing make it incumbent upon us all to combine our efforts and unify our ranks against the forces of treacherous terrorism. Those entrusted with respecting the law and legitimacy must not violate them, the Council said.

Sudan

Radio Reports Garang's 'Secret Visit' to Israel

EA1104173394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The radio of the Israeli enemy army has reported that rebel John Garang paid a secret visit to Israel and met the prime minister of the Israeli enemy, Yitzhaq Rabin, and discussed with him the possibility of providing assistance to the forces of the rebel movement. The Israeli radio said rebel Garang had also met Mordechai Gur, the Israeli enemy's minister of war [name and title as heard], and heads of security organs in Israel.

AL-SHARQ of Qatar quotes its correspondent in the occupied territories that rebel John Garang ended his four-day secret visit to Israel yesterday. There are indications that rebel John Garang has in the past made several secret visits to Tel Aviv with the aim of getting assistance for his forces.

SPLA Holds 1st Convention in 10 Years

NC1104213394 Paris AFP in English 1730 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, April 11 (AFP)—Delegates of Sudan's southern rebel movement fighting the Khartoum government held their first conference since the group's creation in 1983, rebel sources said here Monday.

More than 500 delegates of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and its political wing, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), participated in the convention, which was held in southern Sudan and ended Friday, the sources said.

SPLA leader Colonel John Garang attended.

The conference was called in a bid to reinforce Garang's authority in the face of an internal power struggle with SPLA-United, a breakaway faction formed in 1991 and led by one of his former aides, Riek Machar.

The sources said the conference's resolutions would be published in the next few days.

They added that one of the meeting's objectives was to modify the SPLA charter, which stipulates that the rebels are fighting for a share of power within a united Sudan.

The movement has in recent years shifted towards a separatist stance favouring a division of Sudan into two independent states—a Moslem north and a Christian south.

The SPLA and the Sudanese Government held brief and inconclusive talks last month in Nairobi within the framework of wider peace negotiations brokered by the regional Inter-Governmental Authority and Drought and Development, which comprises representatives from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda.

The negotiations are scheduled to resume mid-May.

'Warring' Faction Refuses To Sign Treaty as Scheduled

EA1004113694 Nairobi KBC Television Network in English 1800 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Negotiations involving Sudan's warring factions today hit a snag when one of the groups refused to be signatory to a treaty they were scheduled to endorse.

The treaty involves passing a decree to a free passage of relief food supplies and humanitarian assistance to the war affected areas in southern Sudan. Reliable sources at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where negotiations are still going on, told KTN that two groups, the SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army] mainstream and Sudanese Government had agreed to sign the document but the other faction, SPLM [Sudan People's Liberation Movement] declined to be part of it.

SPLM alleged that there had been alterations in the treaty, thereby demanding that unless the alterations were removed they would not be signatories. The negotiations, which were chaired by the minister of research, science and applied technology, Zachary Onyonka, were also attended by United Nations Operation Lifeline Sudan representative and IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] representatives. By the time we went on air negotiations were still going on.

Paper Notes Dispute Between 'Udayy, Transport Minister

PM1104143494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Apr 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Dispute Between 'Udayy and Iraqi Transport Minister Over Agreement To Establish Company With Sudan"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The establishment of a joint transport company between Iraq and Sudan is expected to lead to the removal of Iraqi Transport Minister Ahmad Murtada because of a dispute between the Minister and 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, son of the Iraqi president, over who should run land transport operations in this company.

Iraqi sources have said that 'Udayy attacked the transport minister for agreeing to sign a contract with an Iraqi merchant whom he described in the BABIL newspaper as "an opposition figure living abroad." He also attacked Transport Ministry Undersecretary Jamil Ibrahim, who was following up the contract's implementation in Amman last week.

The sources pointed out that 'Udayy had been hoping to win a contract to carry out the company's operations and use the land fleet he owns in carrying out all transport operations between Iraq and al-Aqabah and vice versa.

Ahmad Murtada was appointed transport minister in the latest cabinet reshuffle some nine months ago. He belongs to the group loyal to Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil al-Majid, the Iraqi president's son-in-law. He also held in the past the post of director general of the Military Industrialization Organization.

As for Transport Ministry Undersecretary Jamil Ibrahim, he comes from the town of Tikrit. But he belongs to the Mukhlis family, a number of whose members were executed last year on charges of hatching a plot to topple the regime.

'Vindictiveness' of Saudi Minister's GCC Speech Noted

JN1204071494 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 4 Apr 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column: "Al Sa'ud Treason and Insolence!"]

[Text] Frankly, we were not surprised by the vindictiveness of the Saudi regime's foreign minister at the opening of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers meeting when he referred to Iraqi attempts to split the council. We were also not astonished by his insolence when he called on the council to bar these Iraqi attempts, which only exist in his sick mind!

Indeed, we were not surprised or astonished by this clear persistence in pursuing the course of treason and subservience to the foreigner, or by this rabid desire to harm the Iraqi people and maintain the unjust blockade on them. How could we be surprised or astonished when we know more than anyone else the immensity of the crimes and treasons the Al Sa'ud regime has committed against Iraq and the entire Arab nation, and when we know how anxious and frightened this regime is about the future. It fears the return of a powerful, unified Iraq to resume its responsible pan-Arab role in the Gulf area and the entire Arab arena.

It seems the Saudi regime, which has been exposed on the political, economic, financial, local, Arab, and international levels and whose non-patriotic and anti-Arab practices have become known, is not ashamed to persuade other Gulf states to follow its example by pursuing the same policies and stands, that is, to disavow all values and principles of common cause and destiny and to oppose the good efforts and endeavors to lift the blockade on Iraq!

This little Qaynuqa'i [reference to early Arabian Jewish tribe of Qaynuqa'], this grandson of Mordechai, forgets that if not for Iraq and the Iraqi people's brave stand on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland for eight continuous years to stem the yellow Khomeynite wind, and if not for their generous sacrifices, there would not be a Saudi regime today, nor the GCC, palaces, flags, or rulers. But what can one say to those who have lost every characteristic of manhood, honor, and loyalty?

Once again, we say we were not surprised or astonished because we know that a small agent and a servile slave can only be his master's voice, repeating the words of his overlords in Washington and Tel Aviv, expressing their wishes and interests first and foremost.

Besides, an agent cannot be the master of others. He cannot impose his wish and trusteeship on others. The Saudi regime is a servile follower of the United States and the West, so how can he impose its authority and hegemony on other Gulf states? How can it ask them to obey its orders when they do not trust it and feel uneasy about its acts and behavior? Has the Saudi regime forgotten that it has occupied the Qatari al-Khufus border post, and that it is still threatening the security and stability of some of the Gulf states?

If the Saudi regime has the right to establish all types of relations with the Zionist entity, receive the representatives of Jewish councils in the United States and elsewhere, and violate the laws of the Arab boycott of Israel, why shouldn't the Gulf states have the right to establish relations with Arab Iraq and lift the blockade on it, when they know Iraq and its honorable pan-Arab stands in defense of the security, dignity, and stability of the Arab Gulf states.

Indeed, we were not, and will not be, surprised by the behavior of the Saudi regime and the statements of its officials, who have burned their Arab bridges and persisted in humiliation and disgrace. They can only breathe the air of treason and servile subservience. True, the lowly are easy to humiliate; in fact, they enjoy being humiliated!

'Arafat Condemns 'Afula Attack in Call to Rabin
TA1204120194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130
GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] In a phone call with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today, Yasir 'Arafat denounced the murder in 'Afula, U.S. leader Jesse Jackson said in a meeting with Chief Rabbi Yisra'el Me'ir Lau. Jackson phoned 'Arafat yesterday and urged him to condemn the murder. According to him, 'Arafat acceded to his appeals today.

Aides in Rabin's office confirmed that Rabin and 'Arafat spoke on the phone today but would not disclose the contents of their conversation. The aides noted that in the phone call, which was initiated by 'Arafat, the PLO chairman reiterated the condemnation issued by the PLO after the massacre in 'Afula. The sources in Jerusalem said that other than that, 'Arafat did not denounce Hamas, which perpetrated the attack.

In addition to this issue, the two men discussed the progress made in the talks in Cairo. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 12 April adds that the prime minister "mentioned the need to speed up the contacts" and that "the prime minister and 'Arafat agreed that progress had been made in the negotiations and that the talks will resume in Cairo and Paris early next week."]

Peres Says 'Fanatics' Cannot Stop Peace Process
AU1104171294 Hamburg BILD AM SONNTAG in
German 10 Apr 94 pp 2-3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by unidentified reporters; place and date not given: "Israel: 'Fanatics Will Not Stop Peace'"]

[Text] [BILD AM SONNTAG] Following the Hebron massacre, the Palestinians have been carrying out bloody acts of revenge the past few days. The Islamic Hamas resistance group has threatened to start a war in the occupied territories. Can there be peace at all and an agreement between the PLO and Israel under these conditions?

[Peres] The Israeli Government will continue to fight against terror with all its available means. Yet, we will not interrupt the peace negotiations for a single moment and we will continue with great determination to put the Gaza-Jericho agreement into practice. These murderers not only want to kill innocent people, but they want to stop the peace process. Any interruption of the negotiations would be a reward for these murderous terrorists.

[BILD AM SONNTAG] Do you fear retaliatory acts by radical Jewish settlers?

[Peres] Fanatics on both sides are trying to sabotage the peace process. Yet, our desire for peace is stronger than these fanatics. After the Hebron massacre, we arrested radical settlers and disarmed others.

[BILD AM SONNTAG] Will the group of international observers be able to stop the violence?

[Peres] A total of 160 observers from Italy, Denmark, and Norway will be arriving here before too long. As soon as this group arrives in Hebron, we hope the atmosphere will calm down. However, I would like to repeat and emphasize: There can be no substitute for cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians; together we must create the basis for coexistence in peace.

[BILD AM SONNTAG] What assistance for a peaceful solution do you expect from the international community of states and from Germany, in particular?

[Peres] The international community of states and Germany have already committed themselves very strongly. They support the economic development of the countries in the Middle East. Of particular importance is the improvement in the Palestinians' standard of living. If we manage to improve their lives, then we will also be able to convince other Arabs who are our neighbors that peace is an advantage for everyone.

Italian Observers Arrive in Hebron, Comment

LD1104213194 Rome RAI Uno Television Network in
Italian 1800 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The mission of the international observers in Hebron is now under way. This is the first operation of its type in the territories occupied by Israel. Giovanni Bocco reports:

[Bocco] It was a lightning visit by the delegation of international observers in Hebron. Two officers from the Italian carabinieri force were also present. They spoke with the Palestinian mayor of the city and with the Israelis about the organizational aspects of the mandate.

There will be 35 Italian observers, but only 15 will be permanently stationed in Hebron. After leaving the private room, the negotiators entered the council chamber, which was full of people. There was a handshake between the mayor, a UN delegate, and Yitzhaq Rabin's representative. However, the smiles did not hide the fact that there were still many things to be decided. The two Italian delegates are Colonel Pietro Pistolese and Major Giovanni Trullio. They come from the Tus-cagna carabinieri parachute regiment, which has already seen action in Somalia as part of the Ibis mission. Here is the head of the Italian delegation, Colonel Pistolese:

[Pistolese] This is the first contact...

[Bocco, interrupting] Have you overcome the obstacle of security?

[Pistolese] No. For the moment there are no security problems. We are welcomed and we hope to be good guests.

[Bocco] Will you be completely disarmed. I have heard that this will be so?

[Pistolese] We are working on this. We are just at the beginning of our mandate. It is premature...

[Bocco, interrupting] How do you think that this meeting has gone?

[Pistolese] Well.

[Bocco] The 160 UN observers: 90 Norwegians, 35 Danes, and 35 Italians will have to operate in a difficult situation. Hebron is a fortress of the Islamic fundamentalists, but four kilometers away there is a colony of some 5,000 Jewish settlers. Friction is the order of the day.

Territories To Remain Closed for 'Another Week'

Aloni Urges Lifting of Ban 14 Apr

NC1004123294 Paris AFP in English 1100 GMT
10 Apr 94

[Text] Jerusalem, April 10 (AFP)—The occupied territories are to remain closed at least for another week and 18,250 foreign workers will be imported to replace Arab labour, the Israeli government announced Sunday [10 April].

The closure, which was enforced last Thursday after Islamic militants killed eight Israelis and wounded about 50, will be reviewed at next Sunday's weekly cabinet meeting. Environment Minister Yosi Sarid told journalists.

"We cannot allow terrorism to influence the peace process and put it in jeopardy," he said as Israel and the PLO resumed negotiations in Cairo to try to launch Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

Israel would recruit 15,000 east European workers for the construction industry and 3,250 farm labourers, mainly from Thailand and Turkey, to take over from Palestinians, Labour Minister Ora Namir said after the cabinet session.

It would take three to five weeks to organize the imported labour, she said.

The government would also grant 13-dollar daily subsidies to each of 4,000 Israeli workers, who are paid more than Palestinians.

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni warned earlier Sunday that the ban could spark "the start of a famine" and should be lifted this week.

"We cannot cause the start of a famine by imposing a total indefinite ban on two million Palestinians," Aloni told Israel radio.

"We are responsible for the economic backwardness of the territories and we have exploited them during 27 years of occupation."

"The ban should be lifted straight after the Independence Day holidays (on Thursday) [14 April]," Aloni said.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip have been officially sealed since the end of March 1993 following a wave of killings, but the restrictions were greatly relaxed in the months before the Hebron mosque massacre.

Authorities tightened the ban after the February 25 slaughter of 30 Moslems by a Jewish settler, in a bid to prevent revenge attacks. But in recent weeks more than 25,000 Palestinians received new work permits for Israel.

Before the 1993 ban, some 100,000 Palestinians worked in Israel.

Palestinian earnings in Israel represent about one-third of the Gross National Product of the territories.

Rabin: Policy To Be 'Regularly Examined'

TA1004183494 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television
Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening said the government will regularly examine the closure policy. Our correspondent Yaron Deqel spoke with the prime minister this evening:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] We want to calm the situation and create conditions amenable to the continuation of the negotiations. The government, and myself as prime minister, are determined not to allow the enemies and murderers of peace—mainly from the Palestinian side; but following the Hebron massacre I can say from our side too—to stop the peace process. This applies both to Palestinian extremists and to a handful of Jews who carry out such acts, as already happened. [end recording]

Meretz Ministers Express 'Reservations'

TA0904144094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400
GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Several of the Meretz ministers have expressed reservations with the idea of imposing a total closure on the territories for an indefinite period. Minister Shulamit Aloni favors imposing a closure until after Independence Day [15 April] while granting permits to work inside Israel to as many laborers from the territories as possible. Aloni told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that the opposition's incitement should not dictate the government's moves.

Minister Yosi Sarid believes that imposing a closure on the territories was necessary; however, Sarid said, the duration and scope of the closure would have to be discussed further.

Minister Ya'ir Tzaban supports imposing a closure that would be limited in its duration and scope. At the same time, Tzaban called for vigorous action to reduce the damages the closure will cause.

Netanyahu on Closure, Army Pullout

TA1104075594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu has rejected the prime minister's accusations that the opposition members rejoice at the sight of the spilled blood of terror victims. Speaking to our correspondent this morning, he said Labor had promised that through the peace process, it would remove terror from within the boundaries of the Green Line. According to him, since the State of Israel was founded, the state of security has not been as unstable as it is now. He added that he supports the closure but, according to him, the government has been pulling Israel Army soldiers out of certain places in the territories and replacing them with the terrorists' army. Such acts are stupid and dangerous to the citizens of Israel, Netanyahu said.

Environment Minister Sarid on Peace Talks

TA0804183894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Studio interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by Shlomo Ganor on 8 April—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; processed from Hebrew]

[Text] [Ganor] Mr. Sarid, what kind of steps are called for in order to stop the wave of terrorist attacks and stabilize internal security?

[Sarid] First of all, it should be clear to all Israeli citizens that we do not need terrorist attacks to remind us to take all necessary steps. The Army, police, and Shin Bet constantly do everything in their power to prevent terrorist attacks. We have the best army, police, and security services. Even the best security forces, however, cannot prevent every terrorist attack from taking place. That is simply impossible. That is the case in Israel as well as all around the world. Nevertheless, the government is now taking additional steps. A total closure was imposed on the territories yesterday. If this closure requires bringing foreign workers to Israel then there will be no recourse but to adopt this idea. We do not like this option but we like terrorist attacks even less.

[Ganor] Despite all the efforts to persuade him, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has refused to condemn these terrorist attacks. What is your reaction to this?

[Sarid] I vehemently condemn his lack of condemnation. First, I think that 'Arafat is making a grievous mistake with regard to his own position. He will not be doing us any favors by issuing a condemnation. His condemnation will not bring the dead back to life. I think that he is making a mistake on his own part because any civilized person must condemn such a terrible and monstrous

deed. I am very surprised that Yasir 'Arafat does not understand this. The second reason is the fact that we are in the midst of a political process which is based, among other things, on trust. It is totally clear that if the level of trust drops, the political process will eventually suffer. 'Arafat should be more interested in the progress of the political process than any other party—certainly more than us.

[Ganor] Do you join those, including several cabinet ministers, who are calling for a suspension of the talks with the Palestinians?

[Sarid] God forbid. I think that would be the worst possible mistake. That would be giving the most extreme people—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in this case—exactly what they want. If we were to do that, it would not be the government, the Knesset, or even the Israeli people themselves who would decide our fate but rather the last, accursed terrorist who would be ready to carry out a suicide mission. By granting this terrorist the power to stop the negotiations we would be entrusting our fate to him. That is a totally unacceptable prospect.

[Ganor] What were your impressions regarding the seriousness of the Palestinian negotiators from the last week of talks?

[Sarid] The past week was very disappointing. We received the impression that the negotiations were stuck and not making any progress. I can solemnly promise you that this impasse was not Israel's fault. Several things happened here: first of all, not all the Palestinian negotiating teams showed up. Second, we again received the impression that there were internal differences within the Palestinian camp and within the delegation itself that did not permit satisfactory progress. Even our attempts to transfer the beginnings of control on the ground were not implemented. Israel was prepared to permit the entry of an advance force of policemen in order to begin assuming responsibility and control. Even this was not implemented and I very much hope this will be possible next week. This was a disappointing week. I hope that the Palestinian negotiators will get their act together and that next week will prove better.

[Ganor] And if this does not prove to be the case, will you support a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip?

[Sarid] Such a thing does not exist anywhere in the world. If there were such a possibility I would already have expressed my support for a unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip a long time ago. There is no such thing as a unilateral arrangement. A unilateral arrangement would mean total anarchy and chaos in the Gaza Strip. If it were possible I would support it; however, there is no such option and we must continue the negotiations and pull out of the Gaza Strip over the next few days while continuing the protracted and difficult dialogue in order to eventually reach and sign an agreement. Once an agreement is signed we will be able to

finally withdraw from the Gaza Strip, although, as you know, we are already in the midst of the withdrawal process.

[Ganor] This will not happen by 13 April?

[Sarid] This can no longer take place by 13 April. Once again, through no fault of Israel's. We are not to blame for the excessive delay. The delay stems from the inertia of the Palestinian side, whatever its reasons. I reiterate my hope that they will make renewed efforts next week and the negotiations will get back on track. Everything can be wrapped up by the end of this month. We can conclude the negotiations, wrap everything up, sign the agreement, and even implement it by the end of April.

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Wanted Hamas Activist Captured in Gaza Strip

TA1204051494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400
GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Security forces have captured a Palestinian on the wanted list in the al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says that Rasa Abu-Sirhan, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist, carried out operations against security forces in recent months. Four other residents who were reported to have helped him were also detained.

Arabs Try To Stab Policemen in Jerusalem, Hebron

TA1104144494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400
GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Two 15-year-old Arab girls from Wadi al-Jawz tried to stab policemen at the Western Wall plaza in Jerusalem, but the policemen overcame them. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the two apparently managed to enter the plaza armed with knives despite the metal detector placed at the entrance.

Earlier, a knife-wielding youngster was arrested in East Jerusalem as he approached a Border Police unit. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that when interrogated the youngster he said he sought arrest because of a family feud.

A girl bearing a knife was arrested near the Cave of the Patriarchs when she tried to stab a border policeman.

A large demonstration was staged this afternoon in Hebron to protest the ongoing closure of the mosque at the Cave of the Patriarchs. The security forces were forced to use tear gas, and four demonstrators were injured when they inhaled it.

Arab Woman Fatally Shot by Israeli in West Bank

TA1204092794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900
GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] An Arab woman was fatally shot by an Israeli truck driver in the territories today. The incident occurred near the village of al-Jib, south of Ramallah.

Our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz reports that the man was driving a Coca-Cola truck along the Pisgat Ze'ev road in the direction of al-Ram junction when local residents apparently threw stones at the truck. The driver fired several shots from his handgun, killing a local woman on the spot. The commander of the

Judea Region police reported that searches to find the driver are currently under way.

Shamgar Commission Hears Testimony of Waqf Guards

TA1004134894

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1030 GMT on 10 April reports that "Waqf official Muhammad Abu-Salah testified this morning before the Hebron massacre commission of inquiry that Barukh Goldstein struck him to the floor when he tried to stop him from entering the Muslim prayer hall. Three Waqf officials are testifying today after being ordered to do so after they initially refused."

Later in the report, Qol Yisra'el notes that "Muhammad Abu-Salah said Goldstein had caused some problems in the past, but not as much as other settlers. He had refused to leave the Muslim section when asked to by Waqf officials but no specific complaint had been made against him." Abu-Salah said that "he had tried to stop Goldstein entering the Muslim hall on the morning of the massacre. Goldstein said: 'I am an officer,' pointing to his officer's insignia. Abu-Salah said he was still not allowed in and Goldstein hit him with his rifle. Abu-Salah fell to the ground and Goldstein walked past him and opened fire on the worshippers."

The first Waqf official to testify, 'Isma'il al-Shilmun, said he had seen Goldstein a few times in the past, although he was not one of the regular Jewish worshippers. He said Goldstein was the only person to fire shots at the Muslim worshippers. Al-Shilmun admitted that there were only six Waqf guards on duty at the time of the massacre instead of eight. He described a history of tension and acts of provocation by Jewish worshippers and claimed that on numerous occasions he had informed the military governor and Civil Administration officials but nothing was done to change the situation. According to al-Shilmun, in the past Jews poured acid or placed sharp objects on the Muslim prayer mats, offered the Muslims alcohol, and repeatedly shouted insults and opened the door dividing the Jewish and Muslim sections before the allotted time. On the night before the massacre, the settlers celebrating Purim told the Muslims to drink wine, threw a toy grenade, and shouted out such things as 'this is our land and you are our dogs.' Muslims responded with shouts of al-Qassam, al-Qassam—after the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam terrorists—and God is Great. The Waqf officials denied that there were chants of Kill the Jews. Al-Shilmun said that some of the Jewish worshippers came to pray without provocation and respected the sanctity of the place. He also said that some of the officers in charge of the site were strict with the settlers and clamped down on any provocations, but others were less strict and failed to act against the settlers.

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 10 April, in a similar report on the commission hearings,

adds: "the three Waqf officials testified that they did not see another man with Barukh Goldstein. One of the guards leveled sharp complaints against Dov Stelman, the Army commander at the Cave of the Patriarchs, and said that tensions between Muslims and Jews had risen sharply after Stelman's assignment to the post. Contradictions were found between one guard's testimony today and his original statement to the police. The guard, Muhammad Sulayman Abu-Salah, told the police that he had seen four soldiers and an officer outside the prayer hall, but told the Shamgar Commission that he had not seen any soldiers."

Testimony on 2d Person at Cave Reported

TA0804103794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
8 Apr 94 p A11

[Report by Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpts] Mystery surrounds the presence of a second person who entered the Cave of the Patriarchs after Barukh Goldstein and who, according to testimonies by soldiers who guarded the eastern gate, was carrying a Galil rifle. When Major Dov Stelman, the cave commander, arrived at the cave and ordered all those present to remain on the premises, this person had already left and was not questioned by the police. Colonel Yo'av Galant, who testified before the Shamgar Commission on 31 March behind closed doors, said "some degree of cooperation may be involved here."

Col. Galant believes Goldstein's operation was planned. Galant outlined the conclusions and recommendations he drafted in a report he prepared at the request of Major General Sha'ul Mufaz, commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the West Bank. The report recommends that the prevailing status quo at the cave be changed and that a full "territorial" division be made between Jews and Muslims by banning the Jews from praying at Isaac Hall; that new security arrangements be prepared and that the cave be reopened to the public only after they are completed, "even if it takes a very long time;" and that the security arrangements include stationing a significant police force, an antiterror team, and a permanent and well-trained military unit. The report also recommends that, after all of the steps are taken, worshippers not be allowed to enter the cave armed. [passage omitted]

Col. Galant presented his report to Gen. Mufaz and to Maj. Gen. Dani Yatom, commander of the Central Command, on 7 March, 10 days after the massacre. Upon his request, Galant testified behind closed doors but, following a HA'ARETZ appeal, the privileged status of the testimony was lifted. [passage omitted]

Answering a question by Commission Chairman Shamgar, Col. Galant confirmed that "the other person was only seen coming in; no one saw him leave." Shamgar speculated, therefore, that the man could have left the cave along with the Arabs who were fleeing after the shooting, and Galant agreed. [passage omitted]

Galant further said that it is assumed that Goldstein entered Isaac Hall from Abraham Hall and that the Jewish worshipers there did not know what his purpose was—that is, they were not certain he was about to commit an act of violence. Perhaps they thought that “in the framework of the constant provocations that take place in the cave, they would let him in to tease the Arabs a little; after all, it was Purim. No big deal. Then Goldstein went in, and they closed the doors behind him.” Galant stressed, however, that he had no evidence to support this assumption and that he only brought it up to illustrate the dilemmas he encountered while preparing his report, but he formed no opinion on this issue. [passage omitted]

Col. Galant believes “Goldstein’s act was premeditated.” This assumption is based on the fact that he was carrying a large number of magazines and that he left notes indicating that he feared he might not return from his operation. “He went there to shoot; otherwise, it is hard to explain why he took earplugs with him. I believe everything he did was perfectly timed to the moment the Muslims kneel to pray to attain the maximum effect during his attack,” he noted.

Galant added that Goldstein was killed by blows to the head from heavy objects and did not shoot himself, as was initially believed. [passage omitted]

Kakh Activist Detention Shortened by 1 Month

TA1104172294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The administrative detention of Kakh activist Shmu'el Ben-Yishay will be shortened by a month for personal reasons. He will be released within two weeks, the Supreme Court decided today. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that Ben-Yishay was issued an order confining him to the boundaries of Qiryat Arba' and compelling him to report to the police every day for two months. He also undertook not to give interviews to the media, address public rallies, or engage in incitement.

The Jerusalem District Court gave Mendes Qeysar, an inhabitant of Qiryat Arba', a 21-month suspended sentence because he took part in a disturbance in the course of which he attacked a policeman under aggravated circumstances. Qeysar was fined 12,000 shekels for the attack on the policeman.

Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that an Arab inhabitant of East Jerusalem was shot dead in a disturbance near Hebron five months ago, but the shooter was not caught.

Committee Approves Budget To Pay Hebron Victims

TA1104101394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The Knesset Finance Committee this morning approved a special budget of 19 million shekels to pay compensation to the victims of the Cave of the Patriarchs massacre and their relatives. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that 5 million shekels were allocated to pay for the expenses of the state commission of inquiry and to pay some of the expenses of the hospitals that treated the victims. The sums were approved unanimously.

Sha'th's Son To Take Over Army's Computer Software

NC1104154094 Paris AFP in English 1241 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, April 11 (AFP)—The son of PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th has arrived here to take over the computer software the Israeli Army has used to run the Gaza Strip and Jericho, a colleague said Monday [11 April].

'Ali Sha'th, 35, who works for the family computer firm Team, crossed into Gaza for the first time on Sunday via the Rafah border crossing linking Egypt and the Strip, a Team official said here.

Team has been authorised by the PLO to handle the software to be given to the new Palestinian administration by military authorities in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho. Team's managing director Sa'id al-Qidrah told AFP.

Under the Declaration of Principles signed between Israel and the PLO in Washington in September, all responsibility for health, education, social welfare, direct taxation and tourism is due to pass to the Palestinians.

Team which has 400 experts working in 14 branches across the Arab world specialises in developing human resources, training experts in engineering, technology and sociology.

King, Iraq's 'Aziz Reportedly Meet in Amman*JN1204104794 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
11 Apr 94 p 7*

[Text] AL-MAJD has learned that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz last week extended his visit to Jordan by 24 hours so to meet with King Husayn at the latter's initiative. The unpublicized session lasted two hours.

According to well-informed sources, speaking to AL-MAJD, Tariq 'Aziz said at a private meeting with friends in the Jordanian capital that Baghdad had access to documents showing that Gulf Arab leaders lavish gifts and bribes on Western diplomats posted in their countries so that they write back to their capitals warning about Iraqi potential threats to and designs on the Gulf states and demanding that the sanctions be maintained.

Representations of Kurds in northern Iraq, according to 'Aziz, have been visiting Baghdad recently to appeal to the Iraqi Government to move to rid them of practices by Kurdish militia chiefs, such as Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani.

The delegations stressed the Kurdish people's adherence to and support for the Iraqi leadership, according to 'Aziz.

Baghdad recently received numerous signals from Moscow that the Russian Government was willing to cooperate with Iraq and reinstate relations on solid foundations, 'Aziz said.

Moscow sent the message that it was anxious to see itself gradually break free from the grip of the United States and resume its status on the world stage as a superpower.

King Receives Yemeni Socialist Party Officials*JN1104164094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Apr 94*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Court today Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], and Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau, who are currently on a tour of a number of Arab countries to brief their leaders on the present situation in Yemen.

His Majesty King Husayn stressed the need to adhere to the agreements that have been reached and to implement the provisions of the Yemeni accord document, which was signed in Amman and approved by the Yemeni political forces. His majesty also reaffirmed Jordan's concern about fraternal Yemen's march of unity, democracy, and development. He also stressed the need to consolidate the efforts of all Yemeni political forces in order to overcome this crisis through dialogue and adherence to what these forces agree on.

For his part, Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council, expressed the Yemeni leadership's appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn's concern about the unity of the Yemeni ranks and the sincere efforts his majesty is exerting so that the brothers in Yemen can overcome this crisis. He stressed that Jordanian mediation efforts to end the differences among the Yemeni political forces are appreciated and welcomed by everyone.

Within the next few days, a ranking Jordanian delegation will leave for Yemen to meet with the Yemeni leadership and to follow up Jordanian efforts aimed at enabling the brothers in Yemen to overcome this crisis and maintain their march of unity, democracy, and development.

The meeting was attended by al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Court; Marwan al-Qasim, his majesty's political adviser; Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, his majesty's adviser; and the Yemeni ambassador in Amman.

Weekly Details King Husayn-'Arafat Meeting*JN1104155094 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
11 Apr 94 p 1*

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat's plane landed in Amman, without any prearrangements, and was received by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. Meanwhile, a senior Jordanian official asked: Why has this man come and what does he want?

Foreign Minister Talal al-Hasan, King Husayn's political adviser Marwan al-Qasim, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali arrived one after the other at the al-Hashimiyah Palace, where President Yasir 'Arafat was staying. At 2130, his majesty the king and his royal highness the crown prince arrived at the al-Hashimiyah Palace. The two sides talked for approximately one hour and then went to dine with the king.

Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] reviewed part of the talks with Israel and complained about the Rabin government's procrastination, prevarication, and oscillating policies. He added that the Rabin government, which shows enthusiasm for achieving progress in the settlement process, keeps retreating from this enthusiasm as a result of pressure from the Army.

Abu-'Ammar said that Israel is divided and that the views of the politicians in the Rabin government regarding the peace process are different from the views of the Army, which is becoming influential on the political level. Abu-'Ammar said that it has been decided that the settlements in Gaza will be dismantled, but Israel wants a high price in return. Regarding the Hebron settlements, the Government of Israel promised to tighten their grip on them and to place harsh conditions on the settlers there to force them to leave.

Abu-'Ammar expressed his belief that all of the settlements in the West Bank will not be that difficult of a problem in the long run, however, he added, the major

complication lies in the issue of Jerusalem and the settlements around it, which are growing every day.

Following his review of the Palestinian stand, King Husayn asked 'Arafat: What do you want from Jordan? And how do you view Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and cooperation at the present time?

His majesty said: We, in Jordan, call on you to form a permanent bilateral coordination committee so that our acts will not conflict with yours, so that the dialogue with Israel will not be at both our and your expense, so that the results of your talks with Israel will not undermine Jordanian interests, and so that the solutions will not be at the expense of Jordan and its role.

When President 'Arafat failed to respond and attempted to change the course of the discussions, Prince Hasan repeated the demand to launch a permanent coordination committee, as his majesty the king had just proposed. Prince Hasan added: What we want is to create a permanent framework for cooperation, one that brings together politicians and specialized experts. This framework must have a permanent headquarters and meet regularly. This is important if our coordination is not to be accomplished in pieces.

Abu-'Ammar approved this proposal. He insisted, however, that both sides start with a joint committee on Jerusalem, with the understanding that the powers of this committee will expand in the future to include all aspects of cooperation and coordination between Jordan and the PLO. This is because the Palestinian president, who is planning to return to Gaza on 15 May 1994, believes that his bargaining position will be enhanced once he sets foot on Palestinian territory. He believes that once he does so, his dealings with Jordan will be on an equal footing.

His majesty the king reiterated the need for continuous and clear coordination between Jordan and the PLO in the face of Israeli ambitions and U.S. pressure. He also urged President 'Arafat to hold consultations with Syria and Lebanon, and to cooperate with them. He insinuated that true cooperation is currently taking place among Amman, Damascus, and Beirut, noting that the PLO's involvement in this cooperation would consummate inter-Arab cooperation.

President 'Arafat halfheartedly agreed to the king's proposals. But, he changed the subject addressing King Husayn jokingly, saying: Your Majesty the King, please protect me from the PLO Executive Committee members. They disagree with me on most issues. Then, Abu-'Ammar plunged into a lengthy talk on the U.S. penetration of Islamic movements. He cited many things that he said he learned when he attempted to mediate between [former president of Afghanistan] Najibullah and the Afghan mujahidin. He said that he then discovered the great influence the United States wielded within the ranks of the Afghan mujahidin, an eventuality made possible by the arms provided to them by the CIA. He said that U.S. planes landed in Afghanistan, carrying the

most sophisticated weapons to the mujahidin, and returned with plane loads of heroine and various other drugs.

It was midnight, and the royal banquet was over when his majesty the king and other Jordanian officials left the al-Hashimiyah Palace with hopes of effecting a transition from a phase of piecemeal coordination to a phase of regular and continuous coordination between Jordan and the PLO.

Austrian President, Delegation Pay Official Visit

Minister Al-Hasan Meets Delegation

JN1104202794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, has received at the Foreign Ministry the delegation accompanying his excellency the Austrian President in the presence of some officials from concerned ministries. The Austrian delegation includes representatives of the Ministries of Economy, Transport, and Foreign Affairs, as well as representatives of the private, tourism, and energy sectors.

During the meeting, al-Hasan clarified Jordan's pivotal role in the peace process. He explained the economic difficulties Jordan is suffering as a result of the siege on the Port of al-'Aqabah and the grave annual losses it suffered despite its commitment to implementing resolutions of international legitimacy.

For their part, members of the Austrian delegation praised distinguished relations between the two friendly countries. They also expressed their appreciation of the democratic life Jordan is enjoying which is represented by entrenching the state of law and institutions and respecting human rights.

Four joint committees held separate meetings to discuss prospects of reinforcing bilateral cooperation in the fields of transport, technology, tourism, and energy.

King, Klestil Hold Talks

JN1104194394 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] His majesty the king and Austrian President Thomas Klestil held talks at the Royal Court this afternoon on bilateral, regional, and international issues. The two leaders focused mainly on the Middle East peace process and impediments to Arab-Israeli negotiations.

His majesty reaffirmed the Jordanian position to achieve just, permanent, and comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions and reiterated the Kingdom's backing of the Palestinians towards regaining their national rights.

President Klestil emphasized Jordan's pivotal role to bring about Middle East peace and stability and paid tribute to his majesty's sincere efforts to attain just and

durable peace for the people of the region who have suffered long from conflict and tension.

The Austrian president also said his country was looking to a role to consolidate peace in the region, which, if achieved, could open new prospects for economic cooperation with Europe.

The situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina was also discussed and the two leaders stressed a negotiated settlement to be acceptable by all parties and put an end to the suffering of innocent Muslim civilians.

King, Klestil Hold News Conference

JN1104184494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1735 GMT 11 Apr 94

[News conference by King Husayn and Austrian President Thomas Klestil with unidentified correspondents at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 11 April—recorded, in English with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Husayn] Your Excellency, and our dear friends: Sir, we once again, on behalf of all Jordanians, extend to you a very hearty welcome to Jordan, together with the group of friends from Austria who are accompanying you on this visit. We are more than happy to have this opportunity to speak as brethren do, and as friends do, interested in the same causes, interested in the same problems that confront us in our respective regions, and in this large global village, which is our world. We are proud of the very special relations, and relationship that has grown over the years, in terms of its roots and history between Austria and Jordan, Austria and the Arab world. We are very happy to have seen us coming closer together over the years, and to see our relations based on mutual respect and cooperation, and a desire to help and influence events around us for a better future for mankind.

Mr. President: Once again, on behalf of the Government of Jordan, and the people of Jordan, and for myself, a very hearty welcome. Thank you, sir.

[Klestil] Well, Your Majesty: It was with great pleasure that I have accepted the invitation, this state visit to Jordan, particularly at a time where the peace process has reached a point, where the hopes of people who, which were, maybe, too high, are endangered by many expectations, where frustration is coming up here and there. So, I came to his majesty as a close friend of Austria, of the Austrian people, as a key figure in the peace process, as an anchor of stability in the region, without whom there can be no solution of the Palestinian problem. And I was very happy to get an assessment of his majesty of the situation. We talked about the region, the possibilities if peace were to be achieved here, what kind of economic opportunities this would mean for the people of the region, and what role Europe and Austria could play. We also talked about developments in Europe. We talked about the crisis in Bosnia, where his majesty is personally also very interested in, and about

the dialogue of the different religions. And I was able to inform his majesty about a conference we will organize in Vienna at the end of this year, a dialogue between leading representatives of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. So, thank you very much, Your Majesty, for your kind hospitality. You make us all as Austrians feel like home. And I thank you for your friendship, and your confidence.

[Husayn] Thank you, sir. And I really hope that you will feel half as much at home as we feel whenever we are in Austria, which we love, not only for myself, but I am sure for all who know Austria from this country, sir. Thank you so much. You are most welcome, sir.

How can we handle this, the question is [words indistinct] myself.

[Correspondent, in progress] ...on Jordan's response to changing the inspection measures at al-'Aqabah?

[Husayn] You know of our position as far as this intolerable situation that has lasted far too long in regard to al-'Aqabah, and this treatment that has been directed at Jordan in particular out of all the countries of this region. We have—regardless of our feelings—done our utmost to implement Security Council resolutions as they affect our brethren in Iraq. Yet, this has been another unique and unusual treatment that Jordan has been selected for over many, many years. This situation is totally intolerable, and I had the opportunity a while ago to make a point of raising the problem with the ambassadors of the five permanent representatives at the Security Council, and, to explain at the same time that we are forced to suggest that our continuing efforts that have come from our hearts for the cause of a just, durable peace in this region from the outset—our continuation in terms of these efforts is contingent on resolving this problem because we cannot be mistrusted on the one hand and humiliated as a people and yet continue to play this role that we have played sincerely and honestly. And we will not bow to any unwarranted pressure from any quarter. So, we have an indication that the problem is being addressed and we hope that we will have a positive response soon.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty: Jordan agreed to join the peace process based on the implementation of UN Resolution 242. Now after the Oslo agreement, do you still see that this process is heading in the direction of the implementation of 242 as was conceived, or do you see that the Madrid formula for the implementation of the resolution has taken a different shape after the PLO-Israeli agreement?

[Husayn] As you know, we went to Madrid, and we provided the umbrella for our Palestinian brethren to go there. In terms of history, the Arab summit at Rabat in 1974 adopted a resolution. Let me be absolutely clear that the PLO was the sole legitimate representatives of the people of Palestine. We had historically been involved with 242 and its formulation. And then we had

the Oslo agreement, which is an expression of a Palestinian will to address their problems by themselves, having accepted Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. So, it is not up to me to say whether we are implementing 242 or not or seeing its implementation. But as far as I am concerned I believe that it has to be the foundation for the resolution of the problem and the tragedy of this area and this people. And I believe, as we have said, sir, that we are at a very critical moment where many of the hopes and aspirations of so many on either side of the divide were raised at a certain point but are now passing through a critical phase of wondering where it's leading to.

So, I hope and pray that we will see renewed efforts—serious and determined and clear in the intent on establishing a just, durable peace that the future generations can live with and protect to the benefit of all concerned. And in finally addressing the root cause of instability in this entire region; the Palestinian-Israeli dimension of the problem and the Arab-Israeli dimension of it together. We are searching for a comprehensive peace. I think that this is a critical moment for things either progressing and soon, or the loss of hope and the slide into the abyss of despair and disaster as far as everybody is concerned.

[Correspondent] French News Agency. You talked of a conference, a dialogue in Vienna in December was representative of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Will you tackle the problem of Jerusalem in that conference as Jerusalem represents the three religions?

[Klestil] Well, I'm not the organizer of the conference. So, I cannot tell you about the details. I think it's the principles of a religious dialogue that is the main agenda of that conference.

[Correspondent] Austrian TV. Your Majesty, Austria has a major political crisis about 500 km far from its borders. I mean the crisis in Bosnia. What is your personal point of view on behalf of the crisis? I mean the strong reaction of the Atlantic Treaty forces, I mean the continuing resistance of the Serbs, and I mean the angry reaction of Russia.

[Husayn] Sir, I haven't been able to follow all the details of the latest developments. But, the crisis is very worrisome as far as we are concerned and it's a crisis we have felt ourselves all along. And it is a crisis that is awaiting a resolution which we haven't seen so far. It is a test to the international community's will and to the United Nations. And maybe it is the first major crisis that this world has seen following many changes that have occurred in this world in the recent past.

For our part, sir, we are a part of the United Nation's presence in the former Yugoslavia. And this country within its limited means has done everything that it could and will continue to do everything that it could in the future to help the cause of peace and tranquility and the end of suffering of people there.

As you know, we are proud to have been able to provide the second largest force of any in terms of the United Nations' efforts there. Now, we have to watch and see what happens in the coming period. But, failure there by all of us is going to open the way for all sorts of dangers beyond the limits of the areas affected immediately now. And it will be a problem for all of us, I believe, in Europe, here, and in the world as a whole in terms of this particular problem. But, it will also be a very dangerous precedent that could mean the spread of chaos in our world instead of the so called world order that people thought was coming into being.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, did Europe have any economics plan to help the Middle East countries after peace treaty?

[Klestil] I didn't understand.

[Correspondent] Did Europe have any economics plan to help the Middle East countries after achieving peace in our region?

[Klestil] There was recently at the meeting of foreign ministers of the European Union—and this was a meeting for the first time also the Austrian foreign minister was invited to participate together with the other three countries that are about to negotiate their becoming a member—and at that conference there was a decision that more attention of the European Union should be given and attached to the Middle East. And I am absolutely sure, as his majesty said and agreed with me in our talks, once there is peace and security in the region then all kinds of investment and economic cooperation and infrastructure for tourism will come in. And Europe, I am absolutely sure, will take over its share, because peace and security in the Middle East means peace and security for Europe, and danger in the Middle East means danger for Europe. So, there's absolutely the same principle interest.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, I want to ask if Jordan is going to send a team to the multilateral talks in Oman on water in April?

[Husayn] If conditions remain the way they are, at best we will probably send an observer.

[Klestil] Well, you asked about what Europe is doing. I may add, from Austria's point of view, we are active and I think we are in the chair of the committees within the multilateral peace efforts with regard to water, which is an absolute principle and main problem in the region, and energy. Those are two areas where we are active from the bilateral point of view within the multilateral peace efforts.

[Correspondent] I'd like to ask a question about the blockade on al-Aqabah again. Jordanian officials have been talking about pressures on Jordan from mainly the United States and that it is linking Jordan signing a peace agreement with Israel to lifting the blockade. Can you confirm this?

[Husayn] I beg your pardon.

[Correspondent] That they are linking Jordan's signing of a peace agreement with Israel to the lifting of the blockade on al-Aqabah. is that true?

[Husayn] We've made that clear that our continuing in the same way that we did is contingent on resolving this problem, on lifting this unwarranted embargo on al-Aqabah.

[Correspondent] You've warned about the dangers which the region is passing through. Are you satisfied with the U.S. role in the peace process, and do you think that the peace process is being sidetracked since it was launched in Madrid over two years ago?

[Husayn] I hope that there will be a growing realization of the fact that we are now, in this region, and in regard to the peace process, are facing a crisis, or on the verge of it, and I hope that all will react to save the peace process from what may be a disaster that is looming ahead. And I hope that the United States of America and our friends in the world, and certainly those who are immediately involved, will realize that we are passing through a very difficult moment right now and that it's worth looking either at the alternatives, because if this fails, then what is left, except disaster for all.

[Correspondent] I am [words indistinct] from the Austrian Press Agency. From various sides, important [words indistinct] in the Middle East, it has been said that Austria should continue to contribute to the Middle East peace process. What could Austria do for the Middle East peace process in concrete terms?

[Husayn] I believe that Austria has, and Austria will, contribute continuously to the efforts for the establishment of peace in this region, hopefully beyond when it is a reality and a fact. I think that the opportunity I've had today, not for the first time, of discussing the problems of this region, and particularly the issue of the peace process with the president, is an indication of Austria's concern and determination to do whatever our friends can, and now, hopefully within the context of Europe in a more meaningful way. I am sure that Austria's voice will always be heard for peace, for a just peace, for a lasting peace, for a peace that future generations can live with. And Austria's contributions would be great in creating the understanding of what is happening in the minds of those who are not as aware of what is there in the world: Opportunity and threat to the peace process and the future of this region. And I hope also that Austria will be able to help once we have achieved what we have sought for so long: a just, and honorable and lasting peace.

[Correspondent] Sir, (?You're) speaking very strongly, but a bit vaguely about the possibility of a coming disaster. And now, I was hoping you might spell out in more concrete terms, Your Majesty, what the threats are

now, and what you would you like to see the United States in particular, and also Israel do to move forward, in specific terms?

[Husayn] Well, sir: There is no doubt that there is a crisis that has developed out of the expectations of people that have not been met as yet, not even in the smallest possible degree so far. And therefore, the sense of alarm, and the sense of despair that is growing, and that is causing a great deal of distress to the peace camp, as such, and those who believe in it, wherever they are. I hope that the United States will realize how dangerous and difficult it is. I realize it is difficult for all concerned. But we've got to have the vision, we've got to have the determination, we've got to have the help to move beyond this point, and on clearly defined lines towards a comprehensive settlement, and towards resolving this problem once and for all, not on one track alone, but on all tracks, as soon as possible. And I hope we will see actions that will help us regain the sense of hope that was there, and encourage progress as soon as possible.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] this question to the president. Mr. President: You were accompanied by a large delegation. And I understand that there had been a talk of trade relations and economic cooperation. Are you hopeful, or are you sure, that these talks will lead into definite joint ventures and projects which will help benefit everybody here? Thank you.

[Klestil] Well, again, I think the precondition is that the business community feels that there will be security and peace in the future. As long as there is uncertainty about the future developments, there is hesitation for the business community to come in and to invest. So, we have a number of projects, and ideas brought with us we will discuss with our friends in the Jordanian Government. And I had the opportunity to discuss some of the more important ones with his majesty. But, as I said, I think first there has to be peace and security for the future, and then Jordan and the whole region, indeed, will see a tremendous positive development in which Europe will play its share, and Austria, with its traditional close ties with the Arab world in general, with Jordan in particular. And now, after our normalization, we have to also say this, after our normalization of relations with Israel. If you want to have a voice to be heard by all parties concerned, this is now the case. And as a future partner in the European Union, we will strengthen those voices who promote a strong involvement and engagement in the Middle East also as far as business and tourism is concerned. So, I am hopeful. But, they have first to give the business community the security that there is a good and secure future.

[Husayn] Thank you very, very much indeed, sir.

[Klestil] Thank you, Your Majesty.

[Husayn] Thank you so much.

King Delivers Addresses at Banquet

JN1204083594 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Speech by King Husayn in Amman on 11 April—recorded]

[Text] Your Excellency Mr. President, friends: Peace be upon you and God's mercy and his blessings. It is with much pleasure that I extend to you and to your accompanying delegation a warm word of welcome as valued guests and as friends whom we hold in deep affection and high regard. I also wish to welcome you on behalf of the people and government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Let me assure you that we in Jordan take much pride in the ties that happily exist between our two countries, founded on trust and cooperation for the benefit of our two peoples and based on our common faith in the principles of freedom, justice, democracy, and respect for human rights. We share with you a sincere desire to contribute in building a better future in which subsequent generations can live in peace, security, and prosperity.

Mr. President, we in Jordan have always stood by the striving of people for freedom and an independent will. The stand we take on this issue is deeply rooted in our history. Our democratic drive, inspired by the Constitution and the National Charter, which was ratified by a national conference, opting for pluralism of opinion, belief, and cultural and ideological reference, is a true embodiment of our firm adherence to the values of freedom, equality, and regard for human rights. It stems from our nation's history, from its message of tolerance, and from its great civilizing role. Not only do we cherish our democratic march, but we always endeavor with every possible means to strengthen its foundations and enrich its fabric to serve as a model emulated and sought by others.

Mr. President, in the last few decades Jordan has played a pivotal role in maintaining the security and stability of our region despite the many causes and manifestations of conflict and despite Jordan's limited capacity and resources. To this end, we have endured much hardship. When circumstances became conducive to a convening of the Madrid peace conference, we were among the first to respond to the call of peace. We took part in the conference itself as well as in meetings that followed it. We were diligent in asserting the constant elements of our unequivocal stand on the whole question of peace. The elements called for the application of resolutions based on international legitimacy and for total support for our Palestinian brethren so as to enable them to participate in the peace process as a prelude to regaining their rights on their national soil. We have always been careful to uphold the independence of the Palestinian decision and to respect the options made by the Palestinian Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Our recourse in all of this has been an abiding faith in the need to achieve a

comprehensive, durable, and just peace in a region torn by tension and conflict. It is the right of future generations to enjoy stability and the state of wellbeing enabling them to make their own contribution to the civilization of the modern age.

We in Jordan recognize and understand the intricate relationship between a realization of peace on the one hand, and the achievement of growth and prosperity on the other. Real peace can neither stand nor flourish in the absence of development and a decent standard of living. Therefore, the people of our region look to the international community, and specially the countries of Europe, to play a role in the promoting of economic development as a major cornerstone for a real and lasting peace.

Mr. President, in expressing to Your Excellency our pride in the distinctive ties between our two countries, based on confidence and mutual cooperation for the good of our two peoples, I wish to assure you of our keen desire to foster and strengthen those bonds in all walks of life and in the various fields of endeavor.

My friend, I reiterate our pleasure at having you and your accompanying delegation here as guests of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and as valued friends. I wish you health and happiness and a very pleasant stay among us. Ahlan wa sahlan. [preceding words in Arabic: "you are welcome"] Once again peace be with you and God's mercy and His blessings. [applause]

Klestil's Visit, King's Remarks Viewed

JN1204090394 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Apr 94 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Husayn Sounds the Alarm of Regional Disaster"]

[Text] The Austrian president's visit to Jordan and his successful talks with His Majesty King Husayn and his pursuit of increased bilateral cooperation and a more dynamic Middle East peace process all amount to a positive step on the part of Austria—a friend of Jordan. The Austrian president called for a more pronounced European role to propel the peace process forward on the basis of UN resolutions.

At yesterday's news conference, the Austrian leader applauded Jordan's leading role in the effort to bring a just and comprehensive peace to the Middle East, thereby confirming the respect in which Jordan, led by His Majesty King Husayn, is held in Europe and internationally.

Appearing at the same news conference, his majesty called for reactivating the peace process, which he warned is now in a critical condition that threatens to plunge the region into a disaster, should the peace process unravel. His majesty reiterated that Middle East security impinges on European security and vice versa.

His majesty openly called for lifting the unjustifiable blockade of the Port of al-'Aqabah, and reiterated that Jordan's continued participation in the bilateral multi-lateral talks, slated to reconvene this month, is contingent on removal of the blockade, which is taking a heavy toll on the country's economy.

His majesty's warning about a regional disaster if the peace process is not put back on track was made against the backdrop of disappointment over the lack of progress on all fronts. His majesty also indicated that the pressures and harassments directed at the Arab parties involved in the peace process, including Jordan, can hardly advance the peace process or promote a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

It does not stand to reason that the blockade should be kept in place and thus hurt Jordan's economy, trade, and

well-being, and, in the meantime, to expect it to exert itself on behalf of the peace process. It is all the more absurd that Jordan should be treated thus, when it has fully complied with UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq.

The peoples of the region want to see peace established along the lines of Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace formula.

It is hoped the European Union and the United States, as well as Russia and the other permanent members of the Security Council, will grasp the significance of his majesty's remark about the need to reactivate the peace process and put it back on track on all fronts, before a disaster strikes, when contrition will be unavailing.

Al-Hariri 'Not Happy' About Delay of Pope's Visit

NC1104125094 Paris AFP in English 1229 GMT
11 Apr 94

[Text] Beirut, April 11 (AFP)—Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri said Monday [11 April] he was unhappy that Pope John Paul II had decided to postpone his visit to Lebanon.

"I had hoped he would come on time," by the end of May, al-Hariri told AFP.

"I am not happy by the delay and I hope he will set a date as soon as possible for his visit to Lebanon," al-Hariri said.

The pontiff's visit to Lebanon would be "a very good thing for the Lebanese and the Christians in particular," al-Hariri added.

The papal nuncio in Lebanon Monsignor Pablo Puente told a news conference earlier Monday that the pope had decided to postpone a long-promised visit to Lebanon, which has been hit by recent bombings.

Puente did not say when the visit would take place.

A source close to the government said the visit was delayed because of a lack of progress in Arab-Israeli peace talks, a senior source close to the Lebanese government said on Monday.

The source, declining to be named told AFP that the pope, whose visit would have been the first by a pontiff to a Middle East country since 1964, hoped his Lebanon tour would "crown positive achievements in the peace process."

Faruq Abu-al-Lam', a former ambassador to France and supporter of renegade Christian General Michel 'Awn, said the postponement "clearly marked a disavowal of the (Lebanese) regime."

"He is not coming because of security reasons. They should stop telling us stories about the government's positive achievements to date," Abu-al-lam' told AFP.

The secretary general of the right-wing Christian Phalange Party Karim Paqradi told AFP the pope's decision to postpone his visit to Lebanon was "regrettable."

"It's a big disappointment for all Lebanese and a blow to Lebanon's image abroad."

Minister Blames Israel for Security Incidents

NC1204110394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900
GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] In a statement to the magazine AL-AMN [Security] on security in Lebanon and Israel's role in the recent crimes committed because of its failure to make the peace talks succeed, Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij has blamed Israel for the stumbling of the Middle East

peace talks. He noted that given Israel's social and political structure and the aggressive and expansionist theory dominating its institutions, Israel finds it difficult to continue the peace process and ensure the conditions and concessions necessary for its success. He said that Israel's failure to instigate a civil war among the Palestinians prompted it to commit the crime of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque and then to attempt to disturb security and foment sedition in Lebanon, particularly with the horrific crime in the Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Zuq Mikha'il. He pointed out that there is a clear link between the two crimes at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque and Sayyidat al-Najat Church, with the aim of avoiding peace.

On the goal behind the recent security incidents, Mirhij said the perpetrators sought to harm the economic and social situation in Lebanon and to play on sensitivities to aggravate the situation and foil the formula that the Lebanese people agreed upon in al-Ta'if.

Asked about explosives being placed in Ghidras and the Lebanese Army surrounding the area, Mirhij attributed the security and political focus on the Kasrawan area to the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church and the French cultural center, which took place in that area.

Hezbollah Supports 'Martyrdom-Seeking Operations'

LD0904175694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9
Apr 94

[Text] Lebanon's Hezbollah has praised the martyrdom-seeking operations carried out on Wednesday [6 April] by a Palestinian in the town of 'Afula in northern Palestine, and expresses its full support for the continuation of such operations.

Issuing a statement in Beirut today, Lebanon's Hezbollah announced: The anti-Zionist struggle is the legitimate right of the Palestinian people toward the liberation of the holy lands of Palestine from the clutches of the Zionist regime. By carrying out their martyrdom-seeking operations, the Mojahedin are, in reality, defending the honor and dignity of the Islamic ummah.

The statement stresses the futility of the path of compromise with the Zionist regime and states: The people of Palestine will never succumb to the bullying of occupiers and compromisers.

Fadlallah Criticizes Clinton, Pope

LD0804172394 Tehran IRNA in English 1638 GMT
8 Apr 94

[Text] Beirut, April 8, IRNA—Muslim alim, Allameh Seyyed Mohammad Husayn Fadlallah here today lambasted Clinton for having called on Yasir 'Arafat to condemn the recent operations of the Palestinian struggle in 'Afula in northern Palestine.

Fadlallah who was delivering his sermons at Imam Reza Mosque in southern Beirut Friday said no one Zionist is innocent in the occupied Palestine since the mere fact of their presence on the occupied land is a criminal act.

He said the innocent side in the conflict are the Lebanese and the Palestinians who are targets of regular attacks of the Zionist soldiers.

Allameh Fadlallah also criticized the pope for describing the operations of the Palestinian strugglers as some sort of antagonism with non-Arabs, and called on him to support the Palestinians that are being killed daily by the Zionists and demand the Zionist regime to allow Palestinian refugees on their homeland.

He said Vatican's recognition of the Zionist regime is in fact an endorsement of the occupation of Palestinians lands by the Zionist regime.

Publication Law Amended; Media Law To Be Redrafted

NC1104201394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Statement by Information Minister Michel Samahah in Beirut—live]

[Text] The cabinet held an extraordinary meeting chaired by the prime minister this evening. It discussed various media issues and approved the amendments to Legislative Decree 104 dated 30 June 1977. I will read the basic amendments to this decree:

1. Concerning publications, the amendments cancel the administrative suspension of a publication on a basis of a decision by the information minister. They cancel the suspension of a publication by the attorney general or by a court decision before a final verdict is issued. They cancel the penalty of withdrawing the license or terminating the franchise regardless of the repetition of the crime and regardless of its nature.

2. Concerning the press, the amendments cancel the precautionary detention of journalists in all press crimes. They cancel the penalty of imprisonment for crimes not specified in the penal code.

Concerning the procedures of trials, the amendments cancel the judiciary's power to order precautionary detention regardless of the kind of crime. No measures will be taken to suspend a publication or a newspaper before a final court verdict is issued. The trial period will be shortened. The publication court must start a trial within three days and issue a judgment within a week from the date a case is referred to it. The appeals court must begin a trial within five days and issue a judgment within 10 days from the date an appeal is submitted to it.

Concerning penalties, the amendments adopt the same fines adopted by operating laws. They reduce those fines

which exceed these limits. The amendments cancel the penalty of imprisonment for crimes unspecified in the penal code.

This concerns Legislative Decree 104. The National News Agency will release the verbatim text of the amended decree this evening.

The cabinet then discussed the news transmitted to Lebanon by satellite and picked up by satellite dishes. On the proposal of the information minister, the cabinet decided to make an exception: Until the issuance and application of the clauses of the law organizing radio and television media, it will allow local radio and television media services to re-transmit the newscasts and political programs of the following world media services: CNN, Super Channel, BBC, NBC, Sky News, Antenne 2, ITN, MBC, TFR, Euro News, Telefunken, and Dubai Television picked up by satellite dishes after the approval of the information minister within the framework of safeguarding the copyrights of the material transmitted.

The cabinet then discussed in depth the subject of radio and television media in accordance with all the proposals submitted to the ministerial committee and the cabinet. It gave the main directions for the options in this subject so that the committee can discuss all the options and possibilities within the framework of diversification and within the framework of constitutional principles, operating laws, and the nature of the Lebanese people. The cabinet took into consideration that the television and radio media law resembles in no way the publication law, either from a technical point of view, or in its options, or in its penalties. Consequently, the committee that will meet tomorrow will start on a new draft inspired by the diversification options that the cabinet instructed it to use this evening.

Media Leaders Pledge To Fight Restrictions

NC0704140194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Muhammad al-Ba'labakki, chairman of the Press Syndicate, and Milhim Karam, chairman of the Editors Syndicate, held an emergency meeting in the Editors Syndicate offices this morning. Afterward they issued a statement saying a battle has been imposed on the press, which they must fight to the end. They added that everything they had been told—assurances given to people working in the media and citizens everywhere that freedoms were secure—has been proven false.

The two media officials said that every Lebanese journalist and all those who want to maintain simple freedom of expression should mass on a broad front that includes Lebanese, Arab, and international organizations and individuals in a confrontation that might last for some time but that will inevitably end with victory for freedom of expression and the protection of democracy and public freedoms.

Chairmen al-Ba'labakki and Karam invited members of the boards of the two syndicates to a joint meeting to be held at 1200 on 11 April at the Press Syndicate offices.

Iranian Envoy Meets With Shams al-Din

*LD1204090494 Tehran IRNA in English 0821 GMT
12 Apr 94*

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Beirut Hodayun 'Alizadeh and speaker of Lebanon's Supreme Shiite Council Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din Monday discussed latest developments in the region, especially in Lebanon. The ambassador also submitted a message from Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to the Lebanese parliamentarian.

In his message Velayati congratulated Shams al-Din on his appointment as the speaker of the Council.

After the meeting, the ambassador told the Lebanese television that Iran's stance on Arab-Israeli talks was inalterable and would not change. He added that the trend of regional developments had further proved the righteousness of Iran's stance towards the Middle East peace process.

Palestinian Gunmen Said To Kill Fatah Official

*NC1104140994 Paris AFP in English 1343 GMT
11 Apr 94*

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, April 11 (AFP)—Palestinian gunmen shot dead an official of PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah movement on Monday [11 April] in southern Lebanon, Palestinian sources said.

Husayn Abu-Zayd, 47, a deputy to Fatah's former intelligence chief in Lebanon Kamal Midhat, was killed with automatic weapons in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Palestinian refugee camp on the eastern outskirts of this port city, they said.

His killers, two brothers who also belong to Fatah, were arrested by Palestinian military police and handed over to the Lebanese authorities, they said.

An informed Palestinian sources said Abu-Zayd had had a financial and personal dispute with the two men.

PFLP Commander Killed by SLA Said To Be Syrian

*NC1104155194 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic
1330 GMT 11 Apr 94*

[Text] The newspaper AL-SAFIR reports today that one of the three terrorists killed in Kafr Rumman the day before yesterday after a South Lebanese Army tank opened fire on them was a Syrian national and was commander of the group. His name was Jasir Ahmad Dallul and he was born in 1969.

'Truckloads' of Palestinian Ammunition Seized

*NC1204055194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430
GMT 12 Apr 94*

[Text] Army forces yesterday raided an ammunition store belonging to a Palestinian group in the Sharhabil neighborhood of Sidon and confiscated around five truckloads of ammunition. The ammunition included: Some 343 107-mm rockets; 915 artillery rounds of various calibers; 271 shell charges; 138 hand grenades; and 6,680 rounds of various types of ammunition.

The Army forces are continuing to search for weapons and ammunition throughout the Lebanese areas.

India**Rao Notes Pakistani Ties With Yemeni Foreign Minister***BK1204031594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Apr 94*

[Text] The prime minister has said that India has suggested continuation of dialogue with Pakistan to resolve all outstanding issues, but the continued Pakistan support for terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir is complicating the process of establishing good neighborly relations. Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao made this observation when the visiting foreign minister of Yemen, Mr. Muhammad Salim Basindwah, called on him in New Delhi yesterday. The prime minister expressed appreciation for Yemen's understanding of India's vital concerns.

Statement Issued on Visit of Yemeni Foreign Minister*BK1204004394 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1507 GMT 11 Apr 94*

["Official spokesman's statement dated 11-4-94"]

[Text] H.E. [His Excellency] Mr. Muhammad Salim Basindwah, minister for foreign affairs of the Republic of Yemen, visited [as received] India (April 10-13, 1994) at the invitation of Shri Dinesh Singh, minister for external affairs. This was the first ever visit by a cabinet minister to India from unified Yemen.

At their meeting today, the two ministers recalled age-old, friendly relations between Yemen and India and expressed their keen desire to further strengthen them in the coming years. They exchanged views of regional and international issues.

The visiting minister expressed the desire of the Government of Yemen for an intensive interaction in the economic area, especially to increase trade and technical cooperation. During the discussions it emerged that there is a great scope for strengthening mutually beneficial relations in the field of irrigation, telecommunications, health sector, agriculture, trade, training of Yemeni students in professional institutions in India in the areas of engineering, management, electronics etc.

The Yemeni foreign minister invited investments from India in the development projects being carried out there. Our external affairs minister welcomed the suggestion. It was agreed that India and Yemen would jointly explore the possibilities of establishing joint ventures in the field of oil exploration, extraction, refining, distribution and marketing, development of Aden free port, civil construction etc.

India extended its best wishes for the success of multi-party democracy introduced in April 1993 in the Republic of Yemen and hoped that the long-felt, cherished dream of the Yemeni people to see their unified

country proceed further on the path to peace and development, would be realised soon.

Yemen expressed its concern at the menace of growing fundamentalism and terrorism in the world. Yemen supported India's concern on cross-border terrorism and the rejection of interference in the internal affairs of any country by external forces. Yemen supports India's stand on Kashmir issue and hoped that it would be resolved through dialogue between India and Pakistan and not by resorting to polemics and violence.

Rao Views Pakistan's Bid To Modernize Forces*BK1204005494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Apr 94*

[Text] The prime minister said acquisition of F-16 fighter aircraft by Pakistan will disturb the security environment and escalate tension in the region. Addressing the Air Force commanders conference in New Delhi today, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao expressed concern over Pakistan's relentless efforts to modernize its armed forces and air power far beyond its legitimate requirements. He said that while the cold war has ended at the super power level, the security scenario in different regions continues to be remain dogged by conflicts and disputes. Calling upon the Indian Air Force [IAF] to maintain constant vigil, the prime minister emphasized that the IAF has to maintain the highest level of operational preparedness.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, said that India never seeks confrontation and her quest for peace should not be misunderstood as weakness. Earlier, the chief of air staff, Air Chief Marshal S.K. Kaul, reviewed the air power prevailing in the region and its impact on the security environment.

Additional Paramilitary Forces Destined for Kashmir*BK1204034294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Apr 94*

[Text] Additional paramilitary forces are being sent to the Kashmir Valley and Doda region of Jammu and Kashmir to intensify the ongoing drive against the militants. Addressing a press conference in Jammu last evening, the minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, said that forces will be deployed in a tactical manner so that the militants cannot use their hideouts even in the interior areas. He said an army cantonment is also being set up in Doda District.

Mr. Pilot said the center is examining the proposals either to have political advisers or political advisory committee to revive the political process in the state.

The 10-member high-level central team now visiting Jammu and Kashmir held discussions with senior state government officials in Jammu last evening on accelerating the pace of development in the militancy hit state.

The meeting, which lasted for more than six hours, took stock of the implementation of various schemes in the thrust areas. According to an official spokesman, the state government pleaded for immediate central assistance to overcome the present financial crisis in the state. It also demanded an employment package for the youth in the state. The discussions will continue today also.

One 'Pak-Trained Militant' Killed; 7 Arrested in Kashmir

BK1204101694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] In Kashmir valley, one Pak-trained militant belonging to Hezbul Mojahedin was killed and seven others arrested in Uri sector by the Army yesterday evening. A defense spokesman said an Army patrol party, seeing a trip wire being cut, [as heard] immediately cordoned off the area and found that some militants were hiding there. The troops asked them to surrender, but the militants fired at them. The fire was returned, killing one militant. A huge cache of arms and ammunition was also recovered. These include three AK rifles, three pistols, and 3,800 rounds of ammunition.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the police have arrested a militant responsible for four incidents of firing and bomb blast in Jammu city. The militant identified as Harvinder Singh was employed as a constable in the special service bureau. The police have also arrested a top criminal, who was responsible for 18 highway robberies in Jammu and Udhampur Districts.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Condemns 'Savage' Serbian Attacks

LD1104175194 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry here Monday condemned the savage Serbian attacks on the defenceless people of Gorazde as "the explicit breach of the United Nations Charter."

The ministry in a statement said the indiscriminate aggressions of the Serbs against the city, declared as a safe haven in the Security Council Resolutions 824 and 836, revealed the indifference of the international community towards "distortion of human dignity."

The statement called on all countries, particularly the Muslim nations, to adopt serious and rapid measures against the Serbian crimes.

Latest reports say that Serbian occupiers, encouraged by the indifference of the international circles, have intensified the massacre and ethnic cleansing operations in the city in violation of all security council's resolutions.

Meanwhile, the Bosnian presidency announced Saturday that Serbs had used chemical gases to kill many people in Gorazde.

Minister's Remarks on Industry, Economy Criticized

NC0104142194 Tehran SALAM in Persian 16 Mar 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Who Is the Minister Addressing?"]

[Text] "The major problems that our industries now face are, in order: the constant changes in policies, especially foreign exchange policies; delays in the approval of customs tariffs; shortages of foreign exchange and the bureaucracy in the field of foreign exchange; shortages of cash flow; a drop in the people's purchasing power; technological problems; profitability; and personnel."

You might think that the above remarks were made by a critic of the government's economic policies of the past five years or by one of the critical newspapers. But no! These remarks were made by a person who himself was involved from the very start in the implementation of the government's policies and continues to be in charge of one of the country's important industries ministries. But as you can see, he remarks as though he was not at all involved in affairs such as constant changes in policies, especially on foreign exchange, and so on. Of course, he stated other things in his remarks that we will study at a later date.

The important question that arises is: "Who is the minister addressing?" Is he addressing the people? Is he talking to the people who did not play any part in these affairs and were only witnesses of the results? Is he addressing the Majles? Obviously, the Majles approved the First Plan and approves the annual budgets. But it thus assigns the government to carry out its duties and places the responsibility for the implementation of such affairs on the shoulders of the statesmen. Is he addressing the cabinet and the statesmen? If so, is he not a member of this cabinet and has he not been involved in all these affairs? Why is he addressing anyone? What objective does he have by making such remarks? Is the president as the head of the government also one of his addressees and should he too be included among the people who have created problems by adopting and implementing such policies?

We think that in criticizing the government, nothing can be more effective than these remarks because had they been uttered by the newspapers or anyone who comments on the government's policies, first of all, they would be looking at matters from the outside. Secondly, they would easily be branded as "opponents of the government" and efforts would be made to discredit their criticisms. And thirdly, under the current sociopolitical conditions, criticisms by the press and other critics fall on deaf ears. But if they are uttered by someone who is inside the government, no one can doubt that his

remarks are true, and the impact that his remarks will have will be greater than that of the newspapers and other individuals.

Does the esteemed president who accuses newspapers because of their criticisms of being "demagogic" or of trying to "disenchant" the people, cast a glance at his partners and listen to their remarks? Does he categorize these people too in the same way? It seems that some of the ministers who have been involved in these policies from the very outset and have been together with Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani from the very start are trying to portray that what they say has nothing to do with the president. Otherwise, there is no logical reason why a person who himself is involved in these affairs would speak as he does.

In conclusion, it should also be noted that the esteemed minister complained about a "reduction in the people's purchasing power." However, some time ago he strongly defended the increase in the prices of vehicles that are manufactured by a plant that falls under his ministry's jurisdiction, justifying this increase in prices by saying that the difference between the finished price and the market price would go to the country's treasury. Possibly this was aimed at increasing the cash flow of the government(!) or of the plant. Anyway, it is very difficult to make heads or tails out of his remarks!

Revolution Tribunals Dissolved in Court Reorganization

LD1204104694 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Apr 94*

[Text] During today's open session of the Islamic Majles the deputies approved a bill on establishing public and revolution courts. The justice minister [Mohammad Esma'il Shushtari] explained how this bill would affect the judicial branch. We draw your attention to his remarks:

[Begin Shushtari recording] Under our existing legal apparatus, penal and criminal cases are in fact investigated in two stages; that is, in the prosecutor's office or tribunals [dadsara] as the first stage, and in the law court [mahkameh] as the second stage. The process is lengthy and each case lasts a long time. Whereas the latest bill combines the two stages into one. In other words, the prosecutor's office and the law court will investigate each case simultaneously to close the file quicker.

The second point is that at present we have many courts of various categories investigating each case. Shortage of manpower or other necessary resources in the towns with judicial units has prevented the establishment of all such courts. As a result the people have faced difficulties and have had to travel to other judicial zones. Fortunately thanks to the latest bill, every branch of different courts is qualified to investigate all cases.

The third point here is in fact the abolition of the penal and revolution tribunals. This does not mean such tribunals will no longer exist; rather their existing system is to be abolished and they will work with the courts as investigative judges. From this date, the main judicial bodies are the public courts and the revolution courts. The tribunals and prosecutor's offices will be dissolved. They will be working as investigative judges with and under the supervision of the courts and court judges. [end recording]

SALAM on Need for Western Science, Technology

NC0804123194 *Tehran SALAM in Persian 3 Apr 94 p 2*

[Unattributed commentary: "A Fresh Start..."]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] "Time" is the only asset which, when correctly used, can regenerate other assets and can help mankind and society to grow and achieve material and spiritual well-being. But if man or society neglects to use this asset and does not give it the importance it deserves, not only will they waste "time" but all other assets too!

What most clearly characterizes the rapid and awesome developments of the past two centuries is the best and correct use of "time," so much so that in the last years of the twentieth century, fates are decided "in seconds" and it is by taking advantage of such seconds that rival countries try to defeat their enemies. Each second sees awesome progress in science and technology in the world today; and any country that is unable to adjust to this march of the seconds will fall behind in the process of historical evolution. Naturally if a country or a nation has been "backward" for the past two centuries, then it should accelerate its progress 100 fold in order to make up for lost time. [passage omitted]

Here it should be noted that some people regard the West and the speed of its developments with contempt and they condemn the Westerners for not being encumbered by ethics and consider them to be doomed. In this same context, they do not value as much as they should the "science and technology" that come from the West, even though in practice they enjoy the very fruits that this science and technology stemming from the West have yielded. And they even react negatively to science emanating from the West. As a result, they do not attach the necessary significance to society's scientific progress and they neglect the fundamental role that science plays in the material and moral progress of a society. Leaning on the fact that ideology and its moral and spiritual attractions are more correct, they try to justify the scientific and technical backwardness of a society and they consider the great extent to which our society depends on ethics as the reason for our society's superiority over the Western societies. But an equitable judgment is that if a society which leans on ethics and morals is unable to move side by side with the rest of the world and to use the science, technology, and experiences offered by this

world, then it will not be long before all its moral and spiritual grounds too will be seriously harmed and it will surrender to the cultural onslaught of those who are more advanced in science and technology.

A righteous ideology is necessary in order to achieve happiness. But it is not sufficient. Mankind must strive to fulfill his ideology in all aspects by bearing in mind the present time and place. There is no doubt that science and technology are among the factors needed for success in today's world, and we can succeed only if we are good at these things. And this can be done only by multiplying our efforts to learn as much as we can.

Today we have a great responsibility, as time passes and the future approaches. The years that we are now living through are the most sensitive years in the history of our country. We should make up for lost opportunities and understand what time is worth. We should eschew striving for instant profits. We should forego mental idleness and the comforts of life. We should rise in gratitude for the blood that the best children of our country have shed so that Islam and our country can continue to exist, and show firm determination in our efforts for reconstruction. Let us not forget that in the first hours of the new year we went to pay homage to our martyrs and to vow to them that we will continue on their path. We should be faithful to this vow. Therefore, let us make "New Year's Day" a new day for the country and seize the opportunity for a "fresh start" in the history and life of our country. And as stated by the esteemed leader in his New Year message, let us make it our duty to become work-conscious and to display social discipline. So, let us advance toward the learning of science, work, production...[ellipsis as published] ethics and spirituality.

Commentary: U.S. Responsible for Failure in Relations

LD0904202394 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English* 1930 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Text] Today, 9th April, coincides with the anniversary of severance of Iran's ties with America. Severance of Iran-U.S. ties 15 years ago on this day is one of those events which took place after the lapse of just a few months following the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Hence the events which occurred in that juncture and also with the years following the severance of Tehran-Washington ties are indicative of an open opposition in the two countries' relations. This opposition which clearly emerged following the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran due to the anti-arrogant character of the Islamic Republic of Iran and termination of US intervention in Iran's internal affairs, in fact is viewed as the main reason for the severance of ties between Tehran and Washington.

At present too when these severance of ties have entered the 16th year, it seems that the statesmen in Washington are still faced with doubt in accepting the reality of the Islamic revolution and improperly [word indistinct] the present status of Iran on the international and regional scenes.

A glance at the record of the statesmen in Washington vis-a-vis Iran, during more than a decade, specially in the recent years show that the U.S. statesmen have constantly tried to force their demands on Iran.

Hence it must be said that it is the mode of thinking of U.S. statesmen and also their unrealistic approach towards bilateral relations which has taken the Iran-U.S. ties out of a rational and principled course.

It is however indisputable that Washington's insistence on continuing this trend has entailed the removal of favourable grounds for establishment of ties between the two countries.

It is clear that as long as the US insists on continuing such a policy no positive change in the two countries' ties can be expected.

On the other hand the hostile performance of the U.S. leaders during the recent months also showed that the U.S. continues to pursue its desire for isolating the Islamic Republic of Iran on the international scene and that the US officials have made great efforts in this connection in order to prevent Iran from expanding its ties with the European governments including those of Germany, France as well as Japan.

The U.S. has put its European allies under pressure to achieve its goal.

But these efforts which were primarily aimed at putting economic pressure did not reach anywhere and as political analysts say the U.S. policy in this connection has failed.

At any rate according to political analysts the Islamic republic of Iran is considered as a powerful country which is playing a vital role in the trend of the regional developments.

This role is being assessed as significant by the U.S. leaders in so far as the central Asia and the security of the Persian Gulf are concerned.

And this is the reality which the U.S. leaders are forced to accept.

Any how during the past fifteen years the Islamic Iran has proved that it wants peaceful coexistence in the international community and will never compromise the principles of the revolution with any country including the U.S.

Daily Says U.S. Remains 'Great Satan'*LD0904081394 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA—A Persian daily in an article on the anniversary of the severance of ties with the United States said that the U.S. performance so far has proven that it is still the 'great satan'.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' wrote that the severance of ties has been to the interest of the Iranian nation since it has served as a turning point for cutting off all dependencies.

The ever-increasing U.S. interference in the Persian Gulf region, Washington's unconditional support for the Zionist regime and U.S. plots against the Islamic revolution all prove that the U.S. still is the 'great satan', it said.

Stressing that the U.S. claims over its new world order was another indication to its satanic nature, the editorial called for the reinforcement of revolutionary movements to help them stand against the U.S. aggressive and hegemonic policies.

The daily said that the roots of the Islamic revolution have become stronger and revolutionary thoughts of the father of the Islamic revolution of Iran, the late Imam Khomeyni, have spread in various parts of the world from north of Africa to the Middle East and Central Asia.

Therefore, said the article, apparently the U.S. Administration has been unable to check further spread of the divine thoughts of this Islamic movement.

It warned against rumours on the possibility of reconciliation with the U.S. and called on the Iranian nation to remain vigilant and continue their anti-U.S. move.

Commentary Assesses U.S.-Iranian Relations*NC0904082494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] On 9 April 1980 the complete severance of Iranian-U.S. diplomatic relations was announced. At first glance, some people who had lost face vis-a-vis the power of the United States as a superpower said that this would weaken and defeat Iran and called for the removal of the elements that had led to the deterioration of Iranian-U.S. relations. However, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran adopted a decisive stance and removed the negative impacts of this incorrect interpretation which was weakening the revolution. By describing U.S. relations with Iran as relations between a wolf and a lamb, Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, rejected such unjust relations and explicitly

stated that not only are these relations not to the benefit of Iran but they are also to the detriment of the revolution and its sacred objectives.

With the passage of 14 years since the complete severance of Iranian-U.S. relations and with the developments and changes of conditions in the various fields that have come about, the issue of Iranian-U.S. relations is again in the limelight, and some people are optimistically advising the resumption of relations. The reasoning of this group is that, given our country's economic problems, we can solve these problems if we establish relations with the United States. This group claims that by improving our relations with the United States, we can enjoy U.S. assistance and that the obstacles that the United States creates on the international scene will be removed, thus allowing us to enjoy assistance and support by other countries too, which will make us stronger in dealing with problems.

There may be a similarity between this group's argument and the argument of those who intended to oust the Sandinists from the Nicaraguan power scene. When the duel between the Sandinists and the opposition coalition started in Nicaragua, the anti-Sandinists' reasoning was that once they came to power and relations with the United States improved, all of Nicaragua's problems would be solved. With this promise, this group succeeded in gaining power with a very small majority of votes. But contrary to what the propaganda had said, neither was there the flood of U.S. assistance to Nicaragua nor did Nicaragua's economic problems end. The assistance that the United States allocated to Chamorro's government was not an amount that could solve Nicaragua's problems. It was only a tool to control that country.

Under the current conditions, even as some people speak about a change in U.S. behavior toward Iran and consider the desire of U.S. officials for improved relations with Iran reason to establish relations with the United States, a look at White House politics makes us realize that no change has taken place in that country's behavior. Use of instruments such as human rights and nuclear arms to defame Iran in international forums; efforts to prevent assistance to and support for Iran by international organizations; and efforts to upset the relations of European countries and Japan with Iran to inflict as much pressure as possible on Iran all show that the United States' hostile position regarding Iran has not changed. Moreover, Iranian assets continue to be frozen in the United States even though, on several occasions, Iranian officials have called on the United States to halt its policy of blocking Iranian assets.

The enmity of the United States toward Iran is actually the result of the independent policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran. What the United States wants is that Iran give up its independent path and follow U.S. policies. As long as the Islamic Republic of Iran continues on its independent path, the United States will not make peace or establish friendship with the Iranian

nation. This is why, when commenting on the unjust and hostile U.S. stance on Iran, the esteemed leader of the Islamic Republic compared the current conditions for the establishment of relations with the United States with the conditions that prevailed in 1980 and said that nothing has changed. This is why, in answer to whispers about the commencement of talks with the United States, he stated that beginning talks with the United States is a prologue to impositions and defeats.

Tehran on New Algerian Prime Minister, Islamists' Role

NC1204073394 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 12 Apr 94*

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] Although Redha Malek's stepping down as Algerian prime minister and Mokdad Sifi's replacing him is considered a sign of the volatile political situation there, the change could find a solution to the prevailing crisis.

Political analysts believe a dichotomy of views exists within the Algerian ruling party. The first, which is headed by former Prime Minister Redha Malek, believes in the ruthless suppression of Islamists, that their elimination from the country's political scene can end the Algerian political crisis, and that with financial assistance from the West, the unbridled economic crisis can be reined in.

The second group—and it is not yet clear whether Mokdad Sifi belongs to this group—contends that Islamism is a sociopolitical reality in Algeria with an extensive popular base. The acceptance of this reality can be a preamble to every measure to solve the Algerian political crisis.

Protagonists of the second view consider a security crackdown on the trend of Islamism as futile and advocate that negotiations with the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], delegation of power to the FIS, and FIS involvement would give the government a better popular base. This would also guarantee a solution to the multifaceted crisis in the country.

This group has a similar stance to the first group regarding Western financial assistance to solve the country's economic crisis. The domination of the former coupist council by the first group and the current government appointed by it has generated the impression that every Algerian prime minister belongs to the first group, that is, those who contribute to the concept of suppressing Islamic movements. But the performance of the subsequent government, which merely worsened the social, political, and economic crisis in Algeria, eroded this impression and confirmed its ineptitude.

The resulting situation paved the way for the second group to come to power, that is, those who believe in a political solution, not force, to resolve the multifaceted Algerian crisis. New Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi's stressing

the need for extensive efforts to foster national solidarity is perhaps a sign that the new prime minister has different views from those of his predecessors.

What is certain is that raising the level of national solidarity in Algeria—a prerequisite for resolving the country's crisis—can only be achieved by displaying goodwill and adopting an amicable path before the Islamists, not by denying political realities.

Iran, Syria 'Agree To Differ' on Mideast Peace Process

PM1104153094 *London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Apr 94 p 5*

[Unattributed report: "Tehran Fails To Prompt Damascus To Boycott Peace Negotiations"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—High-ranking Iranian sources admitted yesterday that Iran and Syria "have agreed to differ" over the peace process in the Middle East.

Last week Iran made its last attempt to persuade Syria to abandon the U.S.-sponsored peace talks, when a senior mullah visited Damascus.

The mullah in question, Hassan Rohani, met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and delivered to him two messages from "Supreme Guide" 'Ali Khamene'i and President Hashemi Rafsanjani. He said that the two men asked al-Asad in their messages to "reconsider" the Madrid process before visiting Tehran. But contrary to what was rumored at the beginning, no agreement has been reached on a date for al-Asad's visit. The Syrian leadership is still determined to pursue the line discussed in detail at the al-Asad-Clinton summit in Geneva in January.

On his return to Tehran, Rohani, who holds the posts of deputy speaker of the Iranian Majles and secretary general of the Supreme National Security Council, described the peace process as a "conspiracy." But Syrian authorities said later that Rohani's statement describes "just the PLO-Israeli agreement," not the peace process as a whole.

Over the past two years Iran has tried to establish a "rejectionist front" under its leadership. Iranian leaders say that they understand that Syria does not want to impose isolation on itself by pulling out of the talks. However, they believe that Damascus is capable of adopting "courageous stands" on the establishment of a new "rejectionist front."

Five high-ranking Iranian delegations have sought to stress this point to the Syrians during visits to Damascus over the past six months. One of these delegations was headed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. One was headed by Hassan Habibi, first assistant to Rafsanjani. But these visits did not produce joint statements on their conclusion—which indicates the existence of differences over vital topics.

There are two disagreements between Damascus and Tehran over two other issues in addition to the peace process question.

The first is to do with Lebanon's future in general and Hizballah's role in particular. It seems that Syria is determined to disarm the party in question in all Lebanese areas, except the south, where it is confronting the Israeli-occupied "security belt." But Iran wants Hizballah to remain free in all Lebanese areas.

Tehran is alarmed at the failure of Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri to visit Iran despite their agreement "in principle" to do so.

The cause of the second disagreement between Tehran and Damascus is Syria's support for the United Arab Emirates' position on the dispute over the three islands [Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa] situated near the Strait of Hormuz.

Pakistan

Foreign Minister Previews Talks With U.S. Envoy

BK0904122694 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 9 Apr 94 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, April 8—Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali on Friday ruled out any compromise on Pakistan's supreme national interests and assured that all the decisions on the foreign front will be made in the light of national aspirations.

In a TV panel discussion Sardar Asif dealt at length with the entire spectrum of the foreign policy.

He said the American non-papers are not the official stand of the US administration. But during the on-going visit of US Assistant Secretary of State Strobe Talbott both sides will exchange their official stands on the irritants in Pakistan-US relations.

He said the US administration desires to bring its relations with Pakistan on the level witnessed by the past. However, there are some difficulties to achieve this objective and these impediments are due to the stand by the US Congress. But the US administration is trying hard to find some way out.

"We have got some proposals in this regard which will be discussed with Talbott and both sides will try to shorten their distance on their respective positions."

Foreign Minister clarified that the issue of F-16s is in no way linked with Pakistan's nuclear programme.

"We had signed a contract with USA for the delivery of 71 F-16s fighter planes."

Reiterating Pakistan's stand on nuclear non-proliferation he said we are absolutely against the proliferation of nuclear arms in the region. Pakistan has offered many proposals like five-nations talks on the nuclear issue.

"But until and unless India comes out with same spirit nothing will happen unilaterally from Pakistan."

Sardar Asif said it is wrong to say that Pakistan failed to achieve its objectives at the UN Commission for Human Rights meeting in Geneva.

"The real objectives of the resolution were to reduce Indian repression in held Kashmir, to internationalise the Kashmir issue, focus world attention on the current Kashmir situation and to remove the iron curtain weaved by India around Kashmir," he explained.

He said sound ties with Islamic countries are still the major plank of Pakistan's foreign policy. Trade relations with them need further consolidation.

He rejected the impression that the present government has ignored the Central Asian Region for further diplomatic initiatives.

"Pakistan enjoys sound relations with these republics on all levels. The trouble in Afghanistan is the main hurdle to make further improvement but we are not disappointed".

He hoped peace would return to Afghanistan this year.

He said Karakoram highway will be used for trade and railway track will also be laid down on the same route.

In Afghanistan, he said the main problem was to end the blockade of food supply to Kabul which was achieved by his two visits to Afghan capital.

Talks To Cover 'Entire Spectrum'

BK0904091194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Talks were held between Pakistan and the United States in Islamabad this morning to review the entire spectrum of bilateral relations. Important issues, including the Kashmir dispute, supply of F-16 jet planes and nuclear nonproliferation figured prominently at the talks. The American side comprised the U.S. deputy secretary of state, Mr. Strobe Talbott, and the assistant secretary of state on South Asian affairs, Miss Robin Raphel. The Pakistan side included Foreign Secretary Mr. Najmuddin Sheikh and senior officials.

Later, Mr. Talbott had a meeting with the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali.

Details of Talks Highlighted

BK0904155294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] The U.S. deputy secretary of state, Mr. Strobe Talbott, has emphasized the need for strengthening the multidimensional relationship between Pakistan and his country. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, Mr. Strobe Talbott, gave detail of his talks with Pakistani leaders.

[Begin Talbott recording] Together United States and Pakistan finally have a chance to realize the huge human and economic potential of our partnership, and that was the essence of my message to the Pakistani Government today and it also served as the background for everything that we discussed. Now, let me say a word or two about the agenda. I suspect that quite a few of you are interested in the issue of F-16's and the American proposal to cap the Pakistani nuclear program. There was obviously a lot of discussion of those (mostly) inter-related subjects in several of the conversations that I had today. But our talks was far more wide-ranging than just on that subject. In fact, the wide-range of our discussions is significant in itself. It is a testament to the number of issues on which our governments and our people are committed to work together. Ours is a multidimensional relationship and mine was a multidimensional agenda. [end recording]

The American deputy secretary of state called on the president. The president gave a resume of U.S.-Pakistan relations over the past few years and of Pakistan's perceptions of America and its aspirations. He said the governments of Pakistan and the United States have coincidence of interests in several areas. He hoped Mr. Talbott's visit will bring the two friendly countries nearer and narrow their differences. He especially welcomed the friendly vibrations from the United States. Mr. Talbott assured the president that the United States attach the same importance to Pakistan as it did in the pre-Cold War era. He hoped to discuss Pakistan-U.S. relations in depth and said he envisaged discussions across a fairly wide spectrum which would lead to greater between the two countries. Mr. Talbott said the United States noted with satisfaction the diligent way in which Pakistan had put its economic matters in order and hoped for greater cooperation between the two countries.

Mr. Strobe Talbott called on the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, in Islamabad today. Matters relating to mutual interests were discussed during the meeting. The prime minister also hosted lunch for the visiting U.S. delegation.

Mr. Strobe Talbott also met the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, in Islamabad. They discussed bilateral matters, including Kashmir, and nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia. The foreign minister apprised Mr. Talbott of Pakistan's perception of the regional situation. Earlier, Mr. Talbott had a meeting with the senior officials of the Foreign office. The Kashmir issue, handing over of F-16 fighter planes to Pakistan, nuclear nonproliferation and other important matters were discussed in the meeting. The Pakistani side was by led by the secretary of foreign affairs, Mr. Najmuddin Sheikh, while Mr. Talbott was assisted by the assistant secretary of state, Miss Robin Raphel.

Spokesman Comments on Talks

BK0904165094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] The U.S. Deputy secretary of state, Mr. Strobe Talbott, had a meeting in Islamabad with Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto during which they discussed matters of mutual interest to both the countries. Earlier, Mr. Talbott discussed bilateral matters, including Kashmir and nuclear nonproliferation, with Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali. He also held talks with officials in Islamabad during which they reviewed entire spectrum of bilateral relations.

Briefing newsmen about the talks, a Foreign Office spokesman said the two countries have agreed to the concept of multilateral talks on South Asian security and to hold consultations with each other in order to develop an appropriate framework. The spokesman said that the president and the prime minister reiterated Pakistan's desire for continued close and cooperative relations with the United States in the post-cold war period.

The spokesman said during the talks consideration was given to the two nonpapers presented by the United States to Pakistan. These dealt with the proposal for multilateral talks on South Asian security, proposing a verifiable capping of the production of fissile material by Pakistan in the context of removing the impediments in the supply of defense materials. Consistent with its well-known position, Pakistan expressed support for the objectives of promoting nonproliferation regionally and globally. The two sides agreed to proceed with further consideration of this initiative with a view to evolving an agreed and equitable approach.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said Pakistan made it clear that it would not accept any unequal and inequitable obligation as far as nonproliferation is concerned. Pakistan would not accept anything which places it at an disadvantageous position politically, militarily, and security-wise. It was ready to accept any nondiscriminatory and equitable proposal for this purpose vis-a-vis India, but not unilateral capping of its nuclear program and it remained our position even today.

To another question, the spokesman emphatically stated that Pakistan is opposed to the deployment of ballistic missiles in South Asia.

He said Mr. Talbott reiterated the desire of the United States to maintain the long-standing friendly and cooperative relationship with Pakistan. He informed the president and the prime minister that Pakistan was today as important as it was during the cold war era, both regionally and globally and it had a crucial role in the region. The spokesman in reply to another question said Pakistan's stand on Kashmir remains the same that the dispute should be resolved in accordance with the United Nations resolution that calls for plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir. The United States, the spokesman

said, has expressed its willingness to assist in the solution of the dispute if this was agreeable to both the parties.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, the U.S. deputy secretary of state underscored strong commitment of his country of maintaining good friendly relations with Pakistan. He said the two sides also agreed on the elimination of nuclear weapons from the entire South Asian region, especially through talks in a multinational forum. He emphasized that the American proposal for nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia qualifies to be even-handed and has a regional and trans-regional approach. Mr. Talbott said President Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher had asked him to convey this commitment to Pakistani leaders that the United States was determined to champion and broaden this relationship further. He said his talks with the president, the prime minister, and the foreign minister covered supply of F-16's aircraft, capping of nuclear program, and other regional and global issues. He said his dialogue with Pakistan will continue to advance the goals of nonproliferation and to end arms race in the region. Mr. Talbott said they are aware that Pakistan Government is not going to accept any initiative unless the government and the people are convinced that the American initiatives serve the security interests of Pakistan. He said the United States is not asking for a roll back of the nuclear program, but is suggesting a verifiable capping. About the supply of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan, he said further discussion on this will take place.

Commentary Hails Outcome of Envoy's Visit

BK1104054294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Commentary by A.B.S. Jafri]

[Text] Pakistan and the United States have expressed their full support for global and regional efforts to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the missiles capable of delivering them. In a joint statement issued in Islamabad today at the end of the visit of U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Mr. Strobe Talbott, the two countries supported the early convening of multilateral talks on arms control, nonproliferation, and security in South Asia. The joint statement says Pakistan supported the objectives underlying the proposal, especially regional and global nonproliferation. However, the two sides agreed to continue discussions so as to develop an approach acceptable for both sides. Meanwhile, the foreign secretary, Mr. Najmuddin Sheikh, said there was no question of an agreement on nuclear nonproliferation, but discussions will continue in order to arrive at a mutually agreed approach. He said Pakistan explained its stand and position on the nuclear issue and Mr. Talbott had [word indistinct] a much clearer understanding about Pakistan's position.

The most notable outcome of the talks between Mr. Talbott and Pakistani leaders in Islamabad during the last two days is that both sides appeared to be satisfied. What the U.S. official described as the cluster of issues discussed included the suspended sale of F-16 aircraft and a capping, reducing, and eventual elimination of weapons of mass destruction in South Asian subcontinent. The wide-ranging discussions were attributed by Mr. Talbott to what he called the multidimensional relationship between the United States and Pakistan. Mr. Talbott has emphasized that the United States wants the best of relations with Pakistan on the issue of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia, which is a major concern of the United States. Mr. Talbott told to Pakistan side the United States fully realized that Pakistan was not going to accept any initiative unless it served the security interests of the country. The United States, he assured, respected this concern and its initiative will be aimed at promoting security.

Knowledgeable sources in the Pakistan capital are describing the talks as positive and productive. The Government of Pakistan agrees that further consideration of the U.S. initiative should be carried on through normal diplomatic channels. Mr. Talbott has (?taken some pains) to dispel the apprehension that the United States might apply pressure on Pakistan to obtain its acceptance of the Washington line on nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia. He clearly told newsmen here that there was no question of any pressurization of any kind. Official circles in Islamabad have noted that the United States remains interested in promoting a regional approach to the security concern of the South Asian nations. Pakistan, for its part, welcomes any move which is essentially fair, even-handed, and equitable. This principle would apply to all issues, including nuclear nonproliferation, sale of defense equipment, Kashmir, and other issues which call for settlement. A regional approach to contentious issues holds better promise of success.

It is now apparent that the United States understands Pakistan's stance better as a result of Mr. Talbott's talks with the leaders in Islamabad. The issues under discussion have not been finally settled or resolved. What these exchanges have contributed is a much clearer appreciation of each other's position. For instance, the United States now says it is not insisting on any rolling back of Pakistan's nuclear program. This clear statement is seen in Islamabad as acceptance of Pakistan's point of view. There is good reason to see this as progress in the right direction. Two days of talks on matters of profound complexity are not expected to produce instant results, and no instant results were either sought nor have concrete results been achieved. What he has said and (?will be) accomplished is clearing of the atmosphere of some doubt; some feeling that the United States was unable to sympathize with Pakistan's sensitivities. Mr. Talbott's exposition of the United States policies in South Asia has produced the positive conditions needed for progress in the right direction.